

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID PARTI BERSATU SABAH'S OBJECTION TO UMNO BEING IN THE STATE IS BECAUSE IT FEARS THAT UMNO WILL EXPOSE THE WRONGDOINGS OF PBS LEADERS.

+UMNO'S DECISION TO EXPAND TO SABAH CAUSES FEAR AMONG PBS LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN RUNNING THE STATE AT THEIR WHIMS AND FANCIES WITH NO ONE CHECKING ON THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING WHICH DECIDED TO APPLY CAUTION IN FORMING UMNO DIVISIONS IN SABAH.

HE SAID UMNO WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CERTAIN PECULIARITIES OF SABAH BEFORE SETTING UP ITS DIVISIONS IN THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PBS LEADERS FEARED THAT UMNO'S PRESENCE IN SABAH WOULD EXPOSE THEIR MALPRACTICES.-- MORE
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ATTENTION EDITORS: CORRECTION R'R'R'

IN ITEM E724, MAHATHIR-PBS 2 KUALA LUMPUR, PLEASE SPELL NAME IN RELEVANT PARAS AS ...DR JEFFREY, RPT JEFFREY AND NOT AS SENT. HERE CORRECTED REPETITION

MAHATHIR-PBS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT REMINDED THAT SABAH IS NOT ONLY FOR PEOPLE OF THAT STATE ALONE BUT A PART OF MALAYSIA JUST AS PEOPLE IN THE OTHER STATES ACCEPT THE PEOPLE OF SABAH AS MALAYSIANS.

+IT IS WRONG FOR THE PEOPLE OF SABAH TO REGARD SABAH AS A SEPARATE STATE,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER, BROTHER OF SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK DR JEFFREY KITINGAN ALWAYS HAD THAT NOTION.

DATUK DR JEFFREY HAD OFTEN ASKED HIM WHETHER THE PEOPLE OF SABAH COULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

+MY ANSWER IS THE PEOPLE OF SABAH CANNOT BE PRIME MINISTER BUT THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA CAN,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +IF JEFFREY THINKS HE WANTS TO BE THE SABAH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, THIS IS WRONG ... I'M NOT THE KEDAH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA... I'M JUST PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA.+ -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-PBS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+THIS SHOWS THE SHALLOW MENTALITY OF PBS LEADERS AND HOW PAROCHIAL THEY ARE ESPECIALLY THE BROTHERS, DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN AND JEFFREY KITINGAN,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID A PROVISION OF THE SABAH STATE CONSTITUTION BARRING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM JOINING OTHER PARTIES UNLESS THEY VACATE THEIR SEATS ONLY AFFECTS MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID ANY ONE NOT A STATE ASSEMBLYMAN CAN JOIN OTHER PARTIES WITHOUT HAVING TO FORFEIT HIS SEAT AND THIS MEANS AN USNO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CAN SHIFT TO UMNO.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR STATE ASSEMBLYMEN FROM USNO TO VACATE THEIR SEATS JUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING UMNO.

THERE WAS NO POINT IN THEM MAKING WAY FOR A BY-ELECTION BY VACATING THEIR SEATS FOR THAT PURPOSE, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA