

PM on why Umno won't spread to Sarawak

KUCHING, Wed. — Umno has no intention of spreading its wings to Sarawak as it enjoys a good relationship with the Barisan Nasional parties in the state, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Barisan parties in Sarawak had the same objectives as Umno.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting here, Dr Mahathir said the situation in Sabah was different because the PBS had pulled out of the Barisan at the 11th hour during the October general election.

He said Umno had earlier stayed away from Sabah despite requests from the people in the state to set up branches there.

However, Umno changed its mind following the PBS action which affected the performance of the Barisan parties.

Dr Mahathir also advised Barisan parties in Sarawak to reduce the differences among them.

"They should seek ways to resolve their differences in the spirit of solidarity," he said.

Four parties from Sarawak are members of the Barisan at federal level but only three — Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB), Parti Rakyat Bersatu Sarawak (SUPP) and Parti Kebangsaan Sarawak (SNAP) — administer the state and are better known as the BN3 government.

The Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) is in the opposition in the state.

In the last state elections, the PBDS stood against the state Barisan.