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MAHATHIR COMMENDS SABAH UMNO

Mahathir-Umno

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SANDAKAN, April 30 (Bernama) -- UMNO President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today commended the Sabah Umno Kinabatangan division for having the largest membership in the whole country.

He was proud of its achievement in signing up 26,000 members considering that Umno was only recently established in the state.

+Kinabatangan division now surpasses the membership in Kubang Pasu division which had the most number of members before this,+ he told a public rally at the town padang here.

Kubang Pasu in Kedah is headed by Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister.

Kinabatangan division is headed by Haji Juhar Mahiruddin, the Deputy Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir, also, said that Sabah Umno, with a total membership of 240,000, had the second highest number of members after Johor Umno.

He was confident that the encouraging response of the people of Sabah to Umno would return Barisan Nasional to power in the state. -- more

▼30/04/20-37MST

R GE 30-04 00159 EA136

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Mahathir-Umno 2 (last) Sandakan

He said the political situation in Sabah had changed because it now had a national party -- Umno.

Umno had to spread its wings to Sabah without much prior planning' after Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) stabbed its friend in the back+ during the 1990 general election, he added.

+Although angry with PUS, we want to express thanks to them because that action of theirs has enabled Umno to expand rapidly in Sabah,+ he said.

Earlier, he apologised to the crowd for his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Moahamad Ali's absence because she was unwell.

The second largest town in the state, Sandakan serves as its eastern port through which Sabah exports its timber.

Dr Mahathir and his entourage will return to Kota Kinabalu tomorrow morning for the second day of his visit to the state. -- Bernama

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