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MAHATHIR SAYS BARISAN NASIONAL DOOR CLOSED TO PBS

Mahathir-PBS

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KOTA KINABALU, May 1 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) has closed its doors to the re-entry of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+It's too late,+ the Prime Minister told reporters who asked him about latest developments regarding the Sabah ruling party's desire to rejoin BN.

He said BN could not entertain the request of a group which had no stand, lacked commitment and was unable to co-operate as a component.

PBS had not shown any change in its attitude, stand and behaviour, he added.

+If they wish to join BN they must change their attitude to that of BN. But, so far, there has been no change,+ said Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, after opening the inaugural meeting of the Liberal Democratic party (LDP) at the Sekolah Menengah Kian Kok here. -- more

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Mahathir-PBS 2 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said PBS had yet to show a preparedness to co-operate and not shown any signs of a change in its attitude.

When PBS was in the opposition in 1985, the party sought and was accepted into the BN fold, he added.

But, the party's struggle was merely to enable one person to become a leader and, subsequently, it withdrew from BN at the last minute during the campaign for the 1990 general election.

+When BN won, one again they want to ask to return. We cannot consider people like this, who are unsure of their stand.+

Dr Mahathir said he was optimistic of Chinese community support in Sabah in view of their mounting awareness of the weaknesses in the PBS administration which gave them no benefits.

+Before, they did not know PBS. But now the Chinese community can make a comparison between the PBS administration in Sabah and the efficiency of the BN in bringing development to states under BN rule,+ he added. -- more

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Mahathir-PBS 3 (last) Kota Kinabalu

He was confident of BN would receive Chinese community support in the coming election through its component parties like LDP, a Chinese-led multi-racial party, formed in 1989. It has a membership of 22,000 mainly in the urban areas of the state.

In his opening speech, Dr Mahathir reminded the Chinese community not to allow themselves to be +bought+ by PBS, for example, by its allocation of \$1-million for private Chinese schools in the state.

+What is the use of \$1 million if the Chinese community has in fact suffered losses of millions of ringgit because of the weakness of the PBS administration to provide business opportunities? he asked.

On the likelihood of rivalry between LDP and MCA, which had also spread its wings to Sabah, he said: +This is a family problem. We can resolve it within the family... as in the case between MCA and Gerakan.+

He could not say when state elections would be held in Sabah because the decision rested with the state government. +It is up to them. If they dare, they can call the election,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir later left for Masjid Jamek in Papar, about 45 km from here, to perform Friday prayers followed by lunch with the congregation. --
Bernama

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