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FED GOVT TO COOPERATE WITH SABAH WITHIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, SAYS
PM

Mahathir - PBS

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SINTOK (KEDAH) , May 7, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the federal government would cooperate with the ~~opposition Sabah~~ government Only within the requirements of the law.

+We will cooperate, so far as the law requires us to, nothing more,+ he said when asked to comment on Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan's statement recently that the state government would 'continue to cooperate with the federal government although Dr Mahathir had said that the Barisan Nasional had closed its doors for the readmission of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) into the BN fold.

Asked whether the BN would not readmit all parties which withdrew from the coalition, Dr Mahathir said the matter would be looked at on a case by case basis.

The BN closed its doors to the PBS because it was found that the party could no longer be trusted, he told reporters when approached after he had opened the Malaysian Ex-Servicemen's National Seminar at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) here.

The BN's experience with the PBS had no precedent, he said. -- more

07/05/15-11MST

CNS5549

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Mahathir - PBS 2 Sintok

Dr Mahathir said the government hoped for all parties to be in the BN, either at state or federal level, but by force of circumstances some parties were in the opposition at state level and in the BN at federal level.

+This is a flexibility found in the BN. We are not rigid and we give preference to a pragmatic approach,+ he said.

On the application of the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) to return to the BN, he said this would be left to the Sarawak BN to decide and that the Federal BN would not force the State BN to readmit the PBDS.

Dr Mahathir dismissed the assumption by the Western media that Western countries were cool towards Malaysia, so much so that United States' leaders bypassed the country on their visits to this region.

+We are not sour towards them, maybe they are sour towards us and that is why they are not coming . . . it is their choice,+ he said. -- more

07/05/15-23MST

CNS5571

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Mahathir - PBS 3 Sintok

On a report in the Far Eastern Economic Review that Dr Mahathir was +unavailable+ to take a call from US President George Bush when the latter was in Singapore recently, Dr Mahathir said: +That was a Sunday; I did not get the opportunity (to talk to President Bush) . . . I was not in my office at that time.+

The Prime Minister said, however, that Malaysia had no problems in its relations with the US.

+Just as we are expected to accept criticism and views opposed to ours, we feel we have the right to criticise that which we feel should be criticised. This does not mean we are the enemies of anyone.

+We will criticise something which to our mind is not right, even if it is done by our friends. But if our adversaries were to do something good, we will praise them.

+We have no stand against any country. Friend or foe, we reserve the right to voice our opinion,+ he said. -- more

▼07/05/15-52MST

CNS5574

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Mahathir - PBS 4 (last) Sintok

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia did not know whether the United States had a dislike for the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) because of Malaysia.

+They (the US) oppose the EAEC because they feel it is unhealthy. That is their opinion,+ he said. -- Bernama

▼07/05/15-53MST