
Mahathir: BN not closed to other parties

ALOR STAR: The decision to bar Parti Bersatu Sabah from Barisan Nasional will not be a precedent for others wishing to rejoin the coalition, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said applications from other parties which had left the Barisan would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

He said the PBS left the

Barisan suddenly and at a time when the coalition was facing a general election.

"They withdrew literally at the half-time period of the general election," he said.

"We had considered and accepted them once but they reciprocated by catching us off-guard.

"We cannot have faith in a party like this and that's why we have shut

the door on them." Dr Mahathir told newsmen after opening a seminar organised by the Ex-Services Association at Universiti Utara Malaysia in Sintok.

Also present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Armed Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain, RMAF chief Lt-Jen Tan Sri Yunus Tasi, association deputy president Datuk Sulaiman Sujak and

UUM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said ex-servicemen should consider themselves lucky compared to those in other countries as there were many jobs here and the Government helped them in many ways.

"The Government will ensure that all servicemen about to retire will

be trained to allow them to have a decent livelihood.

"We have cases where diligent ex-servicemen have become millionaires in business," he said.

Dr Mahathir earlier laid a wreath at the Sintok Memorial Monument at the UUM campus. The monument is in honour of 35 people who died while defending Sintok from communist attacks.
