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Mahathir - Usno

BN WILL EXPEL USNO IF IT CO-OPERATES WITH PBS. MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Usno will be expelled from the Barisan Nasional if it co-operates with the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to form a coalition government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"If they do that, they will go out of the Barisan Nasional...they will be expelled,+ he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

The Prime Minister, who is BN Chairman, was commenting on newsreports from Kota Kinabalu which quoted sources as saying that leaders of both parties had discussed the possibility of forming a coalition government.

Dr Mahathir said the report was discussed at the Umno council meeting.

Umno could not confirm the report and therefore did not make any decision on it, said Dr Mahathir who is also Umno President. -- more

06/02/15-58MST

U PE 06-02 00173 ED300

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Mahathir - Usno 2 Kuala Lumpur

Umno, which would mark its second anniversary of its entry into Sabah on Feb 21, Usno, the Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (AKAR) and the Parti Liberal Demokratik are members of the State Barisan Nasional.

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said some Usno assemblymen had on several occasions expressed their unhappiness over not being able to join Umno as members.

"We had explained to them that if they joined Umno, under the state's laws, they will cease to be assemblymen and we'll be forced to hold by-elections,+ he said.

Usno has 11 assemblymen in the Sabah State Assembly while PBS has 42 including six nominated members.

Umno has one member in the assembly in the person of former Usno President Tun Datu Haji Mustapha bin Datu Harun. Datu Mustapha ceased to be the assemblyman for Usukan on joining Umno and was re-elected to the seat on an Umno ticket in a by-election. -- more

06/02/16-21MST

U PE 06-02 00143 ED302

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Mahathir - Usno 3 Kuala Lumpur

Datu Mustapha, who is Sabah Umno Deputy Liaison Committee head and a nominated Umno Supreme Council member was not present at today's meeting of the council for health reasons.

Dr Mahathir said it was because of the state's laws that Umno had advised the Usno assemblymen against joining Umno.

"It's not that we do not want them to join Umno but because the Sabah laws do not allow them to join Umno if they wished to remain as elected representatives," he said.

Asked whether there were complaints that state Umno division heads were more powerful than Usno assemblymen, Dr Mahathir said such a situation probably did not occur.

Not possible...Umno division chairman not more powerful, more influential perhaps," he said. -- more

06/02/16-35MST

U PE 06-02 00109 ED303

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Mahathir - Usno 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Umno Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said: "There has been a lot of talk about this. If it is true that it is happening, I think they will have to face the consequences."

"I know, PBS is working very hard to get them over, one thing is to avoid the election. I don't think the PBS is really prepared to face a general election at this stage, so one of the ways of overcoming this is to buy over. I think a lot of money has been spent on this." -- Bernama

06/02/16-45MST