

PM: Sabah coalition shows up the insincere leaders

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the move by a few Usno leaders to work with the Parti Bersatu Sabah is a blessing in disguise, as this had enabled him to separate the sincere leaders from those who are not.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional has no need for leaders like that to be in the national coalition because these Assemblymen have no principles.

These people are not suitable to serve the people as they are like frogs, jumping from one place to another, he said.

He hoped the people of Sabah realised the type of representatives they had elected.

Dr Mahathir told report-

ers this when asked to comment on Usno's decision to accept the PBS's offer to form a coalition government in Sabah.

He had returned from Jeddah with Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali where they performed the *umrah*.

He had earlier visited Uzbekistan and Iran before performing the *umrah*.

He predicted the coalition would not last long, especially as Tun Datu Amirkahar bin Tun Datu Mustapha did not receive what he had expected.

Usno president Amirkahar was made the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries when he was widely expected to be appointed Deputy Chief Minister after the pact was signed.

Dr Mahathir, however, said news of the coalition

came as no surprise to him as he had been suspicious of the real intentions of some of the Usno Assemblymen for some time.

"Right from the beginning, they had wanted something for themselves.

"They are in politics not to serve Sabah or Malaysia but because they believe that Assemblymen would have the opportunity to make a living." They were also out to seek wealth, positions and titles.

On his meeting with Amirkahar and six other Usno Assemblymen on Feb 24 when they had pledged loyalty to the BN, Dr Mahathir said they had complained about a lot of things like not getting allocations and business opportunities to meet the expenses of their constituencies.

do not think one should need millions of ringgit and businesses to be an Assemblyman, even in Sabah."

He said Amirkahar had no principles. After signing the form to become an Umno member, he quietly held negotiations with the PBS.

"It is evident that he cannot be trusted."

He said Amirkahar's real reason in consenting to the coalition was because he could not get contracts and not because Usno was being left out by Umno in Sabah.

Asked about his earlier warning that Usno would be expelled from the BN if it went ahead with the coalition, Dr Mahathir said it would be up to the BN to decide.

Umno will discuss its position on the matter at its supreme council meeting on Monday.

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