

PM: No place in BN for Usno

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By ROHAIZAD A RAHIM

KUALA LUMPUR: Usno no longer has a place in the Barisan Nasional, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said here yesterday.

He said the action by the four Usno state assemblymen in forming a coalition government with the PBS in Sabah only showed they were more interested in their own welfare than that of their constituents.

Dr Mahathir said the decision whether to expel Usno would be left to the BN's supreme council. "As for Umno,

the party (Usno) is not suitable for BN," he said.

"Their (the Usno assemblymen) decision was not surprising. We had our suspicions that these people were only interested in their own well-being," he told reporters on his return from a nine-day official visit to Central Asia.

At the airport to welcome him were Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob and senior government officials.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president and BN chair-

man, said the four Usno assemblymen had also shown that they were unsuitable to serve the people of Sabah and had no place in BN.

"I hope the people of Sabah, especially Usno supporters, will realise the kind of people they chose to be their leaders," he said.

"These people are like frogs... always leaping to the flies to find food."

The four Usno assemblymen were its president Datuk Amir Kahar Tun Datu Mustapha, secretary-general Askalani Haji Abdul Rahim, Pitting Mo-

hamed Ali and Haji Mohamed Said Senang.

Dr Mahathir said such people were not interested in serving the public but looked at politics as a means of getting wealth.

"They think that by being elected, it is an opportunity to not only *cari makan* (earn a living) but also a way to get positions, titles and wealth.

"In a way, what they have done is also good as now we know who are the sincere ones."

To a question, Dr Mahathir said during his meeting with

the assemblymen in February, they complained about lack of funds and business opportunities to help their constituents.

"They said the funds and opportunities were for their constituents but I don't think you need millions of ringgit for such businesses even if it is in Sabah."

Dr Mahathir said Amir Kahar also showed his insincerity and lack of principles by applying to be an Umno member and not informing the party of his negotiations with the PBS.

He also said the coalition would not last.