

Mahathir insists (P) PBS prove its sincerity

By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM and
SHAHANA AZ SHER HABIB

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KUALA LUMPUR: Parti Bersatu Sabah leaders who want to bring the party back into the Barisan Nasional must prove they had no part in the conspiracy which took it out of the coalition in 1990, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

These leaders must also prove their commitment to the Federal Government before being considered, the Prime Minister added.

"We have no quarrels with Sabahans. We have no quarrels with the Kadazans. We only disagree with the present leadership which stabbed us in the back," he said.

He was speaking to reporters at Parliament House where he had earlier launched books depicting the plight of Bosnians.

"We are not that heartless that we will not forgive them. If they are sincere, prove it."

On Tun Datu Mustapha Harun's decision to quit his Cabinet post and Umno, Dr Mahathir said it was his right to do so.

"In Umno, we want committed members and can do without those who are not," he said.

In Kota Kinabalu, former Sabah Foundation director Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said yesterday that relations between Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur would improve if he entered politics.

Dr Kitingan, 45, who was freed from restricted residence unconditionally on Wednesday, said the leaders in Kuala Lumpur now understood "our problem."

Dr Kitingan said there were leaders in Sabah and Kuala Lumpur who sincerely wanted to mend ties.

Dr Kitingan met his brother Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan for about an hour at the Chief Minister's office.

He said they discussed the possibility of his contesting the Sabah elections.

Dr Kitingan, who is widely expected to contest the Bingkor state seat, said it was up to Pairin to decide which constituency he would contest.