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Mahathir-SAPP

SAPP LIKELY TO BE ADMITTED INTO BN, SAYS PM

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KUCHING, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the chances of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) gaining admission into the Barisan Nasional (BN) are bright.

The Prime Minister said there had been no objections from BN components to SAPP's application to join the BN.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN Chairman, believed that SAPP's application would be accepted and the question now was whether the party would contest in the Sabah state election on Feb 18 and 19 under its own banner or that of the BN.

The matter would be decided after consultation with BN components in Sabah, he told reporters here before leaving for a two-day visit to Sabah.

The Prime Minister said he had received SAPP's letter (seeking to join the BN) and had made it known that he had no objection to SAPP's bid and it was up to other BN components to express their views. -- more

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Mahathir-SAPP 2 Kuching

He said SAPP's entry would strengthen Sabah BN and as far as could be gathered the SAPP had the support of Chinese in the state.

Dr Mahathir said he had evidence to show that there were leaders in Sabah who were using their powers to enrich themselves to the extent of neglecting development in the state.

He said because of this Sabah lagged far behind in development despite the fact that it was a rich state.

Dr Mahathir said he could not make a more specific statement on this because the matter was subject to laws on libel.

He also said Malaysia hoped that Australia could provide more information on the allegation that the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) had bribed opposition party members in Malaysia. -- more

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Mahathir-SAPP 3 (last) Kuching

Since the allegation was made by ASIS agents, there could be truth to it and it could be very damaging to Australia, he said.

On tourism in Sarawak, he suggested that the many rivers in the state be developed into tourist attractions, for example by providing for luxury cruise and adventure. -- Bernama

AHM YBY

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