

BN to decide today on new Sabah parties

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Barisan Nasional supreme council will meet tomorrow night to discuss the applications submitted by the three newly-formed Kadazan based parties to join the coalition.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Barisan chairman, said today the meeting would also discuss the composition of the Sabah State Cabinet which would be proposed by Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai.

The three parties are the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS), the Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) and the Parti Demokratik Bersatu Sabah (PDBS).

The PBRS is headed by former PBS secretary-general Datuk Joseph Kurup, the PDS by former PBS deputy president and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Bernard Dompok and the PDBS by Bingkor State Assemblyman Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, who is the younger brother of PBS president and former Chief Minister Datuk Seri

Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

The PBRS and PDS have already been registered with the Registrar of Societies while the PDBS' application is pending. The PBRS application was approved on March 11 and the PDS' today.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that a new era would emerge in Sabah following the formation of the Barisan Government last week.

He said he was confident of the birth of a new era because Sakaran was well accepted by all sides in the State.

"I believe a new era will dawn on Sabah," Dr Mahathir told reporters.

He had earlier launched the book *The Making of the National Car — Not Just a Dream*, which was written by Datuk Tharu T. Tharumaganam, the joint secretary to the Boards of Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia (Hicom) and Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional (Proton).

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan would keep its promises

made during the recent election campaign, including the rotation of the Chief Ministership among the three major races — the Bumiputera Muslims, the Kadazan/Dusuns and the Chinese.

He said the Barisan wanted to ensure that there was close co-operation among its component parties in the State.

The Barisan formed the new State Government after several PBS Assemblymen crossed over to Barisan component parties, giving the coalition a majority in the State Assembly. Sakaran then succeeded Pairin who resigned as Chief Minister.

On the requirement of passports when Malaysians from the peninsula enter Sabah, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the people of Sabah to decide.

"It is odd for you to use passports within your own country.

"But we appreciate their concern and will take that into consideration," he said.