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Mahathir-Decision

BN PUTS OFF DECISION ON APPLICATIONS BY TWO SABAH PARTIES

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KOTA KINABALU, May 31 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) has postponed a decision on the applications of two splinter parties of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to join the coalition.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is BN chairman, said it was still evaluating the people's support for the two parties.

"It is pointless for us to accept them if they have no support from the people," he told a news conference at the end of a brief visit here.

He said the BN was aware the two parties -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) -- had worked hard to build their support among the people. -- more

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Mahathir-Decision 2 Kota Kinabalu

"The BN wants to make the decision with full patience since it involves the future of Sabah," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN did not want to act hastily in the matter because, if something adverse were to occur later, it would be difficult to undo the damage.

"Correcting something bad is harder than to do something which is acceptable to everyone right at the start," he said.

He added that the BN would meet as soon as possible to decide on the issue.

On the vacant post for another Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Mahathir confirmed it was reserved for a representative of the Kadazan/Dusun community.

"We have pledged that the Sabah BN government will not be monopolised by any single community," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-Decision 3 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir hinted that the vacant post would most likely go to a representative of the PDS or PBRS since the Kadazan/Dusun leaders now in the BN had already been given appointments.

"We have already picked those in the BN, so it will be meaningless if others were to come in and have no place," he said.

On the objection by Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) to the admission of PDS and PBRS, Dr Mahathir said that as a BN component, it could have its own opinion but the BN usually made decisions by consensus.

"We will consider whether their view is valid or not. If it is valid, we will follow what they say but if not and if it is in the interest of the BN to accept them (PDS and PBRS), then we will," he added.

Dr Mahathir stressed his remarks should not be taken to mean that he accepted the two parties in principle. -- more

ZAA CTI.

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Mahathir-Decision 4 (last) Kota Kinabalu

"If I make a statement too early, there will be no point for the BN to meet and again, if I say there is no hope, it is also pointless to meet further," he said.

However, political observers believed the PDS headed by former Deputy Chief Minister and PBS deputy president Datuk Bernard Dompok stood a better chance of being admitted than PBRS led by former PBS secretary-general Datuk Joseph Kurup.

PDS has 12 assemblymen, the largest number among the three Kadazan/Dusun-based parties including Akar which support the BN.

Meanwhile, Akar president Datuk Mark Koding said his party submitted a memorandum on its stand to Dr Mahathir today.

He said the memorandum explained the struggle of the party, its history and the contribution it could make as a BN component. -- Bernama

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