

No decision on entry of PDS, PBRS into Barisan

KOTA-KINABALU: No decision has been made on the admission of the two PBS breakaway parties — Parti Demokratik Sabah and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah — to the Barisan Nasional.

But a decision would be made as soon as the Barisan supreme council convened a meeting, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister, who was expected to announce Barisan's decision regarding the applications of PDS and PBRS yesterday, said the coalition was still assessing the grassroots support of the two parties.

"There is no point in admitting them if they don't have the support of the people," he said.

The Barisan's deadline for the two parties to reorganise themselves

ended yesterday and leaders of both parties had anticipated an announcement from Dr Mahathir at the Pesta Kaamatan in Hongkod Koisaan.

Akar, with six assemblymen, has vociferously blocked the entry of the PDS led by former PBS deputy president Datuk Bernard Dompok, backed by 12 assemblymen, and former PBS secretary-general Datuk Joseph Kurup, who is the only assemblyman of his PBRS.

Datuk Mark Koding, the president of Akar, which is now the sole representative of the Kadazan and Dusun communities in Sabah Barisan, wants the two parties out as they feel the Deputy Chief Minister post should go to them.

On Monday, the state Barisan component leaders of Umno, SAPP, Akar,

LDP and MCA, held an informal meeting at the residence of Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai.

They discussed various options and the stand of each party towards the application of PDS and PBRS, while Koding met Dr Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur in a last ditch effort to clinch the DCM post for Akar.

On the delay in the appointment of the DCM post left vacant for the Kadazan-Dusun communities, Dr Mahathir said it was because the Barisan Government wanted to be careful as it involved the future of Sabahans.

Koding told newsmen that a list of names for the DCM's post had been submitted to Dr Mahathir. It is understood among those on the list are Koding and his deputy Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan.