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### Cautious reaction by political leaders

KUCHING, Tues. - Several political leaders reacted cautiously today to the possibility of Umno spreading its wings to Sarawak - the only State where it has not established itself.

They agreed with acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that any move to bring Umno into the State would have to be discussed at the top level between Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Chief Minister and PBB president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak vice-president Dr James Masing said that the coming of Umno to Sarawak hinged on the question of necessity.

"Is there a necessity for Umno or for that matter, any Barisan Nasional component outside the State to come?"

"If there is no necessity, then the coming of such party to Sarawak may cause unnecessary suspicion and anxiety among the existing component parties.

"Even worse, it may destabilise the already stable political situation in the state," Masing, who is also the Tourism Minister, said.

Former Sarawak DAP chairman, Sim Kwang Yang, declined to comment on the possibility of Umno's entry into the State.

"I don't want to talk about it. I have talked too much about politics in the past," Sim, the former MP for Bandar Kuching, said.

Asked whether Umno should follow the steps taken by the DAP to come to Sarawak, he said: "I don't want to talk about it."

Sarawak National Party secretary-general Justine Jinggut said that Umno would only come to the state with the full agreement of Bumiputera leaders.

"As long as Bumiputera leaders agree, Umno will not face any problem," he said.

For that to happen, he said, Umno leaders must discuss the entry with the Bumiputera leaders, like Taib.

He said that the entry of Umno should not be forced down the throat of the people, especially Bumiputera leaders.

"The statement by Anwar (last night) has given comfort to the Bumiputeras that any move to bring Umno to Sarawak will be after consultation with our (Bumiputera) leaders," he added.

Justine felt that the possibility of Umno coming to Sarawak was there.

"I don't think we can avoid it when the time comes," he said.

Persatuan Kebangsaan Melayu Sarawak president Datuk Wan Yusoff Tuanku Bujang said it was only logical for Umno leaders to discuss with the State leaders before Umno could enter.

"After all, both Umno and PBB (Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak) are members of Barisan Nasional. So, it is logical that Dr Mahathir and Taib talk to each other on question of Umno's entry into Sarawak," he added.

Wan Yusoff, who is already a member of Umno through one of the branches in Peninsular Malaysia, said that no one could stop Bumiputeras from Sarawak from applying to be members of Umno.

"As I understand it, more than 1,000 Bumiputeras from the State have already become Umno members."

He said that it was difficult for Umno to come to Sarawak at present "because there are certain people who have made it difficult for the party to come over."

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