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Taib on motives for bringing in Umno

KUCHING, Sat. - Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud claimed certain political groups continued to harp on the issue of Umno's entry into Sarawak for less than noble reasons.

He said the groups wanted Umno to spread its wings to the State because it was jealous of the stability of the Sarawak State Barisan Nasional, particularly the Sarawak-based Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, which is the backbone of the coalition here.

Speaking to a large Hari Raya-Chinese New Year gathering at the Civic centre here, Taib said even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad looked upon the PBB and its policies as "parallel to Umno's" and as such there was no necessity for the the peninsula-based party to extend to Sarawak at this stage.

He said the main concern of the Prime Minister and his Government was stability as this was an essential ingredient for propelling the nation forward.

Taib said the State BN had worked hard at bringing about such stability and had even brought Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak back to the State BN fold because of the principle of power sharing.

He said the rakyat should protect this stability and not allow anyone or any group to destroy it.

"If Umno were to come here, it must be to further enhance unity, not otherwise. This has been mentioned unequivocally by the Prime Minister in the last PBB convention," he said.

Taib also questioned the wisdom of former Chief Minister Tun Abdul Rahman Yaakub in bringing the peninsula-based DAP to Sarawak in the late 1970s at a time when the Sarawak United People's Party was playing an important role in uniting the Chinese in the State.

"His (Rahman's) sole motive in bringing in the DAP was to weaken and destroy SUPP," he alleged. SUPP is one of the four State coalition parties. The others are PBB, PBDS and Sarawak National Party (SNAP).

Taib said the Prime Minister had brought about unity of all races in the country and Sarawak in particular, and the former Chief Minister should not question the decision of the Prime Minister in not bringing Umno to Sarawak.

The Chief Minister added that if Tun Rahman believed in the unity of the Bumiputeras in Sarawak, he should not try to destroy the PBB.

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