

12 NOV 1998

Mohamed

BN NOT READMITTING PBS, SAYS MOHAMED RAHMAT

SHAH ALAM, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat has ruled out any possibility of the governing coalition readmitting Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

"I don't see the possibility at any time at all," he said when approached by reporters on the PBS going back to the BN fold if the party applied to rejoin the coalition.

Mohamed, who is also Information Minister, said the BN in Sabah has sufficient component members and any addition could only create problems.

"We already have enough bodies in the Sabah BN. Up to now I don't think the BN can accept PBS," he said after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding here today relating to the hosting of Motorsport '98.

PBS left the BN only days before the October 1990 general election. The BN now controls 43 of the 48 Sabah state legislature seats, the PBS four and an independent occupies the remaining seat.

The Sabah BN is made up of Umno, Parti Demokratik Sabah, Parti Maju Sabah, Akar Bersatu, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, the MCA, Gerakan, Parti Liberal Demokratik and the MIC.

On seat allocation among BN components in the light of impending state election by March 1999, Mohamed said the component parties could submit their proposals.

However, he said, Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would have the final say.

"I believe there is very strong lobbying for seats. But I don't this will be a problem in the Sabah state election.

"There must be give and take in this matter...Once seat allocation is decided, all BN components would have to work hard to ensure victory for the BN candidates who will be determined by the prime minister," he said.

Asked when the BN would allocate the seats, Mohamed said this was being studied.

-- BERNAMA

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