

03 MAY 1998

SARAWAK BN CONSENSUS CRUCIAL FOR UMNO'S ENTRY

KUCHING, May 3 (Bernama) -- Umno can enter Sarawak once a consensus is reached among the Bumiputeras in the state, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

Its entry can only be realised with the blessings of the four state Barisan National (BN) component parties, he said.

They are Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

Sarawak is the only state where Umno has yet to make its presence.

Taib, who is Sarawak BN chairman, said he had discussed the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and believed that it would become a reality in about 10 years.

Umno's entry would be the final phase of political integration, he told reporters after opening six PBB branch meetings in Asajaya, about 70km from here.

-- BERNAMA

CJ TS