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Sabah-Pairin

MY TOP PRIORITY TO WIN ELECTION, SAYS PAIRIN

SANDAKAN, March 6 (Bernama) -- PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said he was more concern to winning the state election with a two-thirds majority than to dwell on whether the party would be readmitted into the Barisan Nasional (BN).

He said BN leaders had made conflicting statements over the acceptance of his party into the governing coalition.

" Sometimes, they say PBS is welcomed to join BN while others say it has to wait," he told reporters after a meet-the-people session, here.

The former chief minister pointed out that the PBS had said many times that there is nothing in the law to say that a political party in Malaysia must be a component of the ruling BN.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in Papar yesterday that the BN had closed its doors for PBS to return to the coalition as " they have stabbed us on the back by pulling out from the coalition at the eleventh hour to join the opposition in the 1990 general election."

Pairin, who is regarded by the Kadazandusuns as the Paramount Chief (Huguan Siou), said PBS wanted a two-thirds majority in next week's election to form a strong and stable government.

" We don't want a neither here nor there situation as it will affect the political stability in Sabah," he said.

The BN, PBS and Bersekutu is fielding candidates in all the 48 seats.

Polling will be held on Friday and Saturday.

-- BERNAMA

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