

27/08/1999

PBS' Usukan divisional leaders join Umno

KOTA BELUD, Thurs. - Parti Bersatu Sabah's Usukan division has been crippled with the resignation of its head Atong Imam Karim, six divisional committee officials and 25 branch leaders, to join Umno.

Another 1,100 PBS members from the branches will also be joining Umno.

Its Wanita head Lamiah Imam Karim and deputy Youth leader Menjan Tun also left the party.

Atong and the other PBS leaders handed over their application forms to Umno supreme council member and Usukan Umno division head, former Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said, here, today.

The six divisional officials are Rezuan Sikah, Lemin Jemad, Damian Elong, Roslee Wakit, Hamara Sumail and Ohong Katong.

In welcoming them to Umno, Salleh said joining Barisan Nasional was a wise move by the former PBS leaders.

"Wise and bold move and this will bring about unity among the people ... they realise now that the Opposition will not be able to deliver the much needed development for the people," he said.

Salleh, who is Usukan assemblyman and Kota Belud Member of Parliament, said like other PBS leaders who had earlier joined BN, Atong and the group were also supporters of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking to reporters, Atong said those who applied to join Umno today were just representatives of the various branches.

He said in a day or two some 1,100 members would be following suit.

This is another setback for the PBS after its two assemblymen Abdul Malek Chua (Kuamut) and Ulin Datuk Pamiang (Pensiangan) had quit the party in June to join Umno.

(END)