

23 NOV 1999

PBS STRONGMAN KODING JOINS UMNO

PAPAR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) was dealt a heavy blow today when one of its founding members Datuk Mark Koding defected to Umno.

Koding, a deputy chief minister when PBS was in power, handed over his membership form to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a brief function after the ground-breaking ceremony for the Sabah police General Operations Force 16th battalion headquarters here.

A cheerful Dr Mahathir exchanged greetings with Koding to the applause of more than 2,000 people from this district.

Koding was president of the Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu (Akar Bersatu), a Sabah BN component, before he resigned his post and then rejoined PBS in March last year.

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY