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Mahathir-Umno (Sabah)

TWO PBS STATE ASSEMBLYMEN JOIN UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Two Sabah State Assemblymen from the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), Haji Abdul Malek Chua (Kuamut) and Ulin Pamiang (Pensiangan), today joined Umno.

Both men handed over their membership forms to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putra World Trade Centre here where the 53rd Umno general assembly was held.

With this, Sabah Umno now has 26 seats in the State Assembly and at the same time taking the number of seats held by the Barisan Nasional (BN) to 33 in the 48-seat State Assembly.

In welcoming them, Dr Mahathir said the BN is ready to accept PBS members who wished to join any of the BN component parties in Sabah.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, who is also Sabah Umno chairman, said the party would accept into its fold those who believed in the struggles of Umno and BN.

Abdul Malek, the PBS deputy president, said he joined Umno in order to end the political turmoil in Sabah.

"There is too much turmoil, as such it is difficult for the government to to focus on development in Sabah," he said.

He expected more State Assemblymen from the PBS and members as well to join Umno.

Ulin said he voluntarily joined Umno without being promised anything.

He said he made the decision on the realisation that Pensiangan is a backward constituency and that only the BN is capable of bringing progress to the people in the constituency.

In KOTA KINABALU, PBS information chief Henrynus Amin described the move by the two State Assemblymen as a "betrayal of the people's mandate".

He said both men had failed to keep their promise to the people that they would remain loyal to the party before they were picked as candidates in the recent state election.

In the state election, Malek won the Kuamut seat by defeating Datuk Joseph Sitin Saang of the BN by a 509-vote majority while Ulin beat the BN candidate Ellron Angin by 1,279 votes in Pensiangan.

-- BERNAMA

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