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Sarawak-Umno

ABANG ABU BAKAR'S INTENTION AGAINST BN/UMNO'S PRINCIPLE, SAYS TAIB

KUCHING, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Former Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Abang Mustapha's intention to bring Umno to Sarawak is against the principle of Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

Taib, who is Sarawak BN chairman, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno president, had many times described Parti Pesaka Bumiputera (PBB), the linchpin of the state's BN, as Umno in Sarawak.

"All the seats are won by BN component parties and it's not necessary to have another BN component...that's the fundamental rule," he told reporters at the Hari Raya "open house" of Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi, here.

Abang Abu Bakar, who was PBB deputy president, yesterday said he was willing to make a political comeback to the extent of bringing Umno to Sarawak if the people wanted him to do so.

Replaced by Effendi for the Kuala Rajang parliamentary seat, Abang Abu Bakar was responding to reporters' question on talk that a group of people had nominated him to be Sarawak Umno Liason Committee chairman.

Commenting further, Taib said that it was the wish of the people in Abang Abu Bakar's constituency that he be dropped.

The PBB president said Abang Abu Bakar's intention would not cause a split in the PBB as his influence and support had been decreased based on the number of votes he received in the race for PBB deputy president in 1998.

In the August PBB convention, Abang Abu Bakar, the incumbent, lost the post to state Industrial Development Minister Datuk Abang Johari Tun Openg, when he garnered only 27 votes.

-- BERNAMA

RDY RM