

24 JAN 2000

Effendi-Umno

NO ONE WAS DIRECTED TO BRING UMNO TO SARAWAK

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24 (Bernama) -- Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Vice President Datuk Effendi Norwawi said today Umno neither made any decision to spread its wings to Sarawak nor directed anyone to bring the party to the state.

"This was made clear to me by Deputy Prime Minister and Umno Vice President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at a meeting last week," he told reporters here.

"Umno in fact is satisfied with the Sarawak Barisan Nasional led by the PBB which scored a major success in the recent election. Hence there is no pressing need for Umno to come to Sarawak," he said.

Earlier Effendi who is Agriculture Minister gave a briefing on the ministry and the Third National Agriculture Policy to PBB Members of Parliament led by Sarawak Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Adenan Satem.

Effendi said he was convinced that Umno was satisfied with the situation in Sarawak and over the strong bond of unity among Bumiputeras in the state.

"Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself had stated that Umno will not spread its wings to the state if this will result in disunity among the communities," he said.

Replying to a question, he said the effort by former Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha to bring Umno to Sarawak was probably aimed at gaining political influence.

He said Sarawak Chief Minister and PBB President Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud had made it clear that Abang Abu Bakar was not renominated as the BN candidate for the Kuala Rajang constituency because the constituents there had no confidence in him.

Moreover his failure to retain his post of PBB Deputy President showed that PBB members did not support him, Effendi said.

-- BERNAMA

APG AAM