

19/02/2000

Not yet time for Umno to enter Sarawak, says Moggie

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - It is not time yet for Umno to be brought to Sarawak, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Leo Moggie said today.

He added that the matter would be discussed only when the State component parties "think the time is right" for Umno to spread its wings to the State.

He said that Umno's entry into Sarawak would hinge on the readiness of the State Barisan Nasional to accept another party into the local arena, he said.

"PBDS' stand has long been known and I have told the Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud long ago that Umno's status in Sarawak will depend on the readiness of the State parties."

Moggie, who is the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister, was asked on attempts to establish Umno in Sarawak after officiating at Astro's installers accreditation ceremony here.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the party had no intention to enter Sarawak and that if it did, it would only be to strengthen the BN and not to disunite the component parties.

Dr Mahathir had also said Umno did not recognise former Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu deputy president Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha's effort to bring Umno to Sarawak and the party also did not endorse the setting up of any branch in the State.

(END)