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`Don't raise the issue of Umno's entry into Sarawak'

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Sabah Umno supports the State Umno Youth's view that all quarters should refrain from raising the issue of Umno's entry into Sarawak as it was not the right time yet.

Sabah Umno head and Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said it was best that the issue be left to the BN component parties in Sarawak to decide.

Osu, who is also State Barisan Nasional chairman, said this after laying a wreath at the War Memorial Monument at Petagas here today. (see picture on P9)

Others present were war veteran Tan Sri Ben Stephens, Kota Kinabalu Municipal Council president Datuk Abdul Ghani Rashid and representatives from the army, police and ex-servicemen.

The issue surfaced following a recent statement by ex-deputy president of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha that he was willing to bring Umno to Sarawak and lead it if the people wished.

Osu said Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had made it clear that the party would only enter Sarawak if it benefited the State.

On speculation that he would reshuffle the State Cabinet after the Chinese New Year, Osu denied any knowledge on the matter.

On whether Feb 2 would be declared as a public holiday to commemorate the elevation of Kota Kinabalu as a city, Osu said the State Cabinet would decide on the matter in its meeting on Jan 26.

(END)