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PBS's re-entry needs Barisan consensus

By **Shahriza Embi**

PETALING JAYA, Fri: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad indicated today that he is agreeable to Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) rejoining Barisan Nasional (BN).

The prime minister and BN chairman said he is basically satisfied with PBS's explanations (for pulling out of the coalition in 1990) but added that the component parties must reach a consensus.

"I have to explain the matter to the component parties first, particularly Sabah-based parties. We are a democratic coalition, I have to get their opinions," he said after handing over house keys to the Bukit Lanjan orang asli community.

He said BN will accept any party that wishes to join the coalition, provided

that it subscribes to the principles.

"He (PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan) said he had realised his mistakes and has apologised. When people apologise, it is not nice for us to reject it," Mahathir said.

Asked what guarantee is there that PBS will not pull out again, he said: "There is no guarantee in politics. Maybe you are enemies today, friends tomorrow, and the next day someone goes to jail."

Commenting on a statement by Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Minister Jacob Nuwa Wea, Mahathir said the government can never please everyone at the same time.

Jacob blamed Malaysians for the flood of illegal Indonesian workers, saying that businessmen here prefer cheap labour.