

Total acceptance or it's rejection, says Dr M

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PETALING JAYA, Fri. — There must be "100 per cent acceptance" of Parti Bersatu Sabah by all 14 component parties of Barisan Nasional or its application to rejoin the coalition will be rejected.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PBS would not be accepted into the BN on the basis that the majority of its component parties was favourable to PBS' re-entry after a 11-year absence.

Speaking to reporters after handing over keys and land titles to 147 Orang Asli families in Damansara Perdana, Bukit Lanjan, he said: "The principle in BN is that there must be a consensus. We have to ask all BN component parties if they agree or otherwise.

"I need to explain to all component parties, especially those in Sabah, who might be worried (with the return of PBS).

Dr Mahathir added that BN was open to people who subscribe to the coalition's principles and policy and not there to tarnish its image.

PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan, accompanied by deputy president Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili, met Dr Mahathir for about 45 minutes before handing the application to rejoin BN yesterday.