

Pairin: PBS will consider loyalty pledge to Barisan

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KOTA KINABALU: Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party is prepared to consider pledging its loyalty to Barisan Nasional.

"If there is any form (of loyalty pledge) that they (Barisan) are requesting we will take that into account," he told reporters on his return from Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Pairin, however, said that it would be up to Barisan to request the pledge it expects from PBS, which submitted its application to rejoin the national coalition to its chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

He was commenting on Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's statement that PBS should pledge to remain loyal to Barisan if it wished to be accepted back into the coalition it left abruptly just before the 1990 general election.

Pairin believed that its

future action would indicate the loyalty that was expected.

"It's difficult to say with words alone. It may not be satisfactory because in history, many a time, we had events where even people signed written agreements to pledge their loyalty but later reneged upon them.

"I do sincerely want to express my loyalty and that of the party to the country and carry out the responsibilities expected of us as a party," he added.

Pairin also described as "wonderful" the indications by the 13 coalition party members who said that they were prepared to allow PBS to return to the coalition.

The 13 coalition parties? including Sabah-based Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, Sabah Progressive Party, United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation and Liberal Democratic Party have voiced no objections to PBS' return.