

Umno ready to accept PBS in BN

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By **Husna Yusop** and
Shahriza Embi

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Umno is ready to accept Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) back as a Barisan Nasional (BN) member and this will be its stand at the BN supreme council meeting to be held after the Hari Raya holidays.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Umno

supreme council discussed PBS's application to join the BN and its has no objection to it.

Speaking at a press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting here today, Mahathir, who is also the prime minister, said the coming BN meeting will also discuss PBS assemblyman Datuk Clarence Bongkos Malakun's application to join the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko).

Asked the rationale for this, he said: "Maybe he likes the other component party. There are also many who joined Umno and there are also those who formed other parties.

"I'm not very suspicious like the press people ... press people are always suspicious, I'm not a pressman."

Mahathir also said the supreme council discussed at length several international issues and decided to maintain its stand on them.

"Our stand remains, as

I've said before. We are also of the opinion that many problems have emerged because of certain parties making the wrong interpretations of Islam," he said.

"And there are some Malaysian students who went overseas not to study about the religion but to learn how to topple the government."

Deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Umno branches will be holding their elections next year.