

PM: PAS can join BN

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Umno won't stop the party if others in the coalition give the green light

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Samy Vellu: Our politics is about tolerance

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"The Prime Minister's move shows that he is a statesman, not a selfish person as some people claim," he said.

This, Samy said, will prove to the world that Malaysia's politics is about tolerance, and that priority is given to the well-being of the people.

"Mahathir is the greatest statesmen the country has ever had," he said.

People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas said there should not be any problem in PAS coming back to BN as the opposition party was once in the coalition.

"I don't see any rejection from other BN component parties as PAS was a former member and now it may want to return, this time for the sake of Malay unity," Kayveas said.

JITRA, Thurs: Umno will not stop PAS from joining the Barisan Nasional (BN) if its other partners in the ruling coalition readily accept it, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"If PAS wants to join BN, it is up to the other BN component parties to decide. Umno will not stand in the way," he said when approached on the matter after attending an Aidilfitri reception organised by the Kubang Pasu Umno Youth here today.

Mahathir, who is Kubang Pasu Umno division chief and Kubang Pasu MP, was asked whether, in the context of the proposed Umno-PAS talks on Malay unity, PAS would disband itself and join Umno.

Mahathir said while Umno would accept anyone, he did not think PAS would dissolve itself to join Umno.

"Even all this while, many PAS members have joined Umno. We are open. Nevertheless, I do not think PAS would disband itself to join Umno," he said.

On the groundwork for the proposed Umno-initiated talks with PAS on Malay unity, the prime minister said preparations were being put in place.

"We are now determining the date and venue. We look forward to having a discourse with them. We want to know their views. For the time being, we cannot say much," Mahathir said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu welcomed Mahathir's statement, saying it's a good move as Malay unity is very important.

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