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`It is proof Umno wants a united Malaysia'

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. - Umno's decision not to object to the re-admission of Parti Bersatu Sabah into the Barisan Nasional fold was proof of its sincerity and commitment to see a united Malaysia.

PBS secretary-general Radin Malleh said they were grateful to the Umno supreme council for not objecting to the party's application to rejoin BN.

"We are very happy that Umno has no objection to our application ... Umno wants the people to be united to weather whatever challenges faced by the country," he told the New Sunday Times.

The Umno supreme council at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday did not raise any objection to PBS's application.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who chaired the meeting, later told a Press conference that Umno's representatives would convey the stand to the BN supreme council which would meet after Hari Raya.

PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan and his deputy Dr Maximus Ongkili submitted the party's application to rejoin BN to Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, on Nov 15.

PBS was a member of the BN from 1985 before leaving the coalition just before the 1990 parliamentary general election.

Chief Minister and State BN chairman Datuk Chong Kah Kiat has described the Umno decision as "very good news" for Sabah.

"Unity in Sabah can be further enhanced if the PBS is re-admitted into BN. We must all work together," he said after meeting members of the public at his open office at Wisma Innoprise.

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