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Mahathir-BN

DR MAHATHIR ASKS S'WAK BN LEADERS TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION

KUCHING, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders who met Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for two hours behind closed doors today have been told to reinforce cooperation to face the upcoming state election.

According to BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, the prime minister also asked leaders of the ruling coalition to settle party internal problems so as to consolidate the BN's position.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day working visit to Sarawak, held the meeting with them immediately upon arrival here.

Briefing reporters later, Mohamed said while the meeting did not raise any indication of the election date, Dr Mahathir reminded the coalition partners to remain united and perform their obligations to the people.

"We need to be strong to face the state election and this requires us to resolve whatever problems, big or small, amicably," said Mohamed.

Sarawak Chief Minister and state BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and leaders of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sarawak (SUPP), Parti Kebangsaan Sarawak (SNAP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) attended the meeting.

PBDS president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, when approached after the meeting, said state BN component parties would have to stick to and uphold the prime minister's message especially on the need to enhance cooperation.

"Cohesion is crucial for the BN to face the upcoming state election," he said.

SUPP deputy president Datuk Law Hieng Ding said Dr Mahathir's message was a morale-booster for state BN components as they gear themselves up for the upcoming state polls.

-- BERNAMA

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