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Move to rejoin BN `a damper to Opposition'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said today PBS's move to rejoin BN would undoubtedly be demoralising to Opposition supporters.

"This will definitely dampen the hope of the Opposition to downsize BN's influence and power. The news came as a surprise to me as there are rumours circulating on the formation of a new alternative front incorporating the PBS minus Pas.

"However, it looks like they do not have much choice. It is sad ... perhaps they have harboured this intention (joining BN) for quite some time but I am quite surprised that something like this is taking place now, especially when they do not have the bargaining power," he said.

Kerk said their return should be by invitation only from BN president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself.

He was commenting on the PBS's decision to rejoin the BN. Last night, the party's supreme council decided on this. The PBS left the coalition abruptly on the eve of the 1990 parliamentary elections to team up with the (now defunct) Parti Melayu Semangat 46.

Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Noor said as the Opposition Alternative front did not have any alliance with PBS, it was up to the party to rejoin the BN.

"Actually, they have been lingering on whether to rejoin the BN for quite some time already. It is up to them," he said.

Parti Keadilan Nasional deputy youth chief Saifuddin Nasution said that PBS's latest move "was nothing new in Sabah politics, adding that it was a way to strengthen the Kadazan bargaining power".

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