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Pairin-Sincerity

OUR ACTION WILL PROVE SINCERITY, SAYS PAIRIN

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Saying that words alone may not be satisfactory to express sincerity, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) President Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said today he hoped the party's action would prove that they were sincere in their intention to rejoin the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Words alone may not be satisfactory. In history, many a time we have had events which is expressed even in written form and signed by people who pledged their loyalty and support but they renegade upon all these pledges.

"I guess I cannot satisfactorily answer those questions (on loyalty) in terms of words but I do hope that in time to come, our action will indicate the loyalty that they expect," he told reporters at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport here after returning from Kuala Lumpur.

Pairin came back after he, accompanied by Deputy President Dr Maximus Ongkili, personally handed over PBS's formal application to rejoin BN to Prime Minister and BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Thursday.

Responding to queries on the call that PBS should pledge its loyalty to the BN, Pairin said: "I do not know in what particular area they are talking about but I do want to sincerely express my loyalty and the party's loyalty to the country and do the responsibility that are expected of us as party and citizens of the country."

Asked on the favourable response by all the 13 BN component parties to PBS's application to rejoin the ruling coalition, Pairin said he appreciated their support.

"That being the indication is wonderful and I'm very appreciative of all the expressions of support. I know there has been some reservations and some statements but that is pertaining to the previous occasion of which I can understand," he said.

PBS has been a BN component party for about five years until it left the coalition abruptly on the eve of the 1990 general election and teamed up with the now-defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46.

Asked on the feedback from the grassroots on the party's decision to return to the BN's fold, he said they were good and the people were supportive of the move.

On the notion that the latest development involving the party would leave a huge vacuum in the state's opposition front and whether such a situation was good for Sabah, the former chief minister said even in the BN, the PBS could still voice out its opinion.

"If we look at the developments in the past few months, we can see that even BN component parties can voice out their opinion. This means there is room for us to express our views. It does not mean that we have to keep our mouth shut after entering the BN," he said.

He was confident that the BN and the government would appreciate constructive opinions from component parties.

"Hence, we do not feel hampered in our role to help the government on matters that required contributions from the party.

"I think everybody has the share of responsibility and we hope to contribute our share of responsibility and it means hard work," he said.

Asked when he expected to know the result of the party's application, Pairin said: "I'm afraid I do not know when they (the BN) are going to have the meeting."

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