

15 NOV 2001

PBS-Apology

PAIRIN APOLOGISES TO DR MAHATHIR FOR EARLIER PULL OUT

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) President Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said today he had apologised to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, over the PBS pull out from the BN on the eve of the General Election of 1990.

"I told him that I regretted what happened in 1990 and I appreciate that he can forgive the PBS...we would like to forget that incident," he said after a 30-minute meeting with the Prime Minister in Putrajaya.

Pairin who was accompanied by his deputy Dr Maximus Ongkili had handed over the PBS application to rejoin the BN to the Prime Minister who is also the BN Chairman.

Pairin said Dr Mahathir would table the PBS application during the coming BN Supreme Council meeting.

He said no time frame was given and no condition was imposed on the PBS application to rejoin the BN.

Pairin said the reason why PBS was applying to rejoin the BN was because the party wanted to contribute and create better understanding in the multiracial country.

The PBS also wished to join in efforts to realise Vision 2020, he said.

Earlier Pairin and 14 PBS Supreme Council members met Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Home Ministry, here.

Pairin expressed the hope that BN component parties would receive in good faith the PBS application to rejoin the BN.

"We very much understand the condition that all BN component parties must agree to the application. Nevertheless we hope our application will be accepted in good faith," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AT NZ AAM