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PBS still waiting for BN's decision

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Parti Bersatu Sabah is still waiting for a favourable reply from the Barisan Nasional on its application to re-join the coalition after 11 years.

Its president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party had not received anything official from the BN, but assumed that it would be duly informed of any decision.

He was speaking to reporters after attending a PBS Hari Raya open house at a hotel, here last night.

Pairin and deputy president Dr Maximus Ongkili submitted the party's application to Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 15.

Following the application, speculation was rife that a decision would be made before Hari Raya or Christmas.

Dr Mahathir's political secretary Datuk Johari Baharom, who attended the dinner, declined to comment on the matter.

"I came here for the Hari Raya dinner on Pairin's invitation. We leave this matter to the BN leadership," Johari said when asked if he was in town to deliver "good news" to the PBS.

Meanwhile, Pairin, when asked if PBS had been invited to join merger talks between Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) and United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko), said it was premature to talk about it.

"Our priority is to re-join the BN," he said.

PBRS and Upko have been holding merger talks, aimed at further uniting the Kadazandusun and Murut communities.

Asked to comment on United Sabah Dusun Association (Usda) executive secretary Attau Ossal's call to PBS to disband if it was sincere in joining the BN, Pairin said the suggestion was a personal one and did not reflect the opinion of the association.

"I don't want to comment on this. That is Attau's personal view."

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