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Mahathir-PBS

PM WELCOMES PBS' MOVE TO REJOIN BN

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today welcomed the move by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to apply to rejoin the Barisan Nasional (BN), describing it as "a good thing".

"I think it is a good thing, the more the merrier," he told reporters at MIC president and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's Deepavali open house at the Chung Hwa Independent Secondary School in Jalan Ipoh here.

However, Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said the BN would consider the PBS' credentials and sincerity as he said: "Once bitten, twice shy."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the PBS Supreme Council's decision last night to submit an application to rejoin the coalition as soon as possible. The PBS left the coalition 11 years ago on the eve of the 1990 general election to team up with Semangat 46.

The PBS' decision to rejoin the BN was made at its Supreme Council meeting held immediately after delegates to the party's 16th annual congress debated on whether they should apply to rejoin the coalition.

Asked on his previous statement that he would never accept PBS back into the BN, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said he was a forgiving person.

"You might remember I said I would never accept Tengku Razaleigh but I'm very forgiving kind of a person," he said, referring to the readmission of the former Semangat 46 president and his followers into Umno.

Asked whether the rotation system for the post of Chief Minister in Sabah would be abolished if the PBS rejoins the BN, Dr Mahathir said: "It depends on the people of Sabah. We recommended a formula and the formula has its benefits."

"We are aware of the PBS' stand. The party does not favour a rotation...it's OK. Let them think about it," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AT NM ZS RM