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Taib-PAS

SARAWAK BN HAS NO OBJECTION TO PAS JOINING BN, SAYS TAIB

SIBU, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) has no objection if the opposition PAS is to join the coalition in efforts to strengthen and solidify Malay unity, its chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, said today.

He said if the party were to join the BN, it would very much be for the good of the coalition as it would further fortify its strength and the unity of more Malaysians.

Responding to reporters' questions during a Chinese New Year visit to the home of a community leader, Temenggong Datuk Tai Sing Chi, here, he said since the 70's the BN had been prepared to accommodate PAS'entry.

He said it would be a futile and internecine cause for the two parties to continue to fight each other if they share the same aspirations.

Taib was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad that Umno would not stop PAS from joining the BN, at a Hari Raya gathering in Kubang Pasu, on Thursday.

The state BN comprises four component parties -- Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and Parti Bangsa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

On whether they could really cooperate as they had different political principles and struggle, Taib said it was up to the leaders of both parties to seek similarities which they could use as a base for cooperation.

"We should not merely look at the background but should look into the future as well, where the cooperation can be of great benefits to us," he ADDED.

-- BERNAMA

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