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Don't compromise position, Sabah Umno leadership told

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. - There seems to be fear among Sabah Umno members that their party's position in the Government will be affected once Parti Bersatu Sabah is re-admitted into the Barisan Nasional fold.

This has prompted delegates to the Sabah Umno information convention here yesterday to pass a resolution calling on the party's State leadership to ensure that its position in the Government was not compromised.

Reacting to the matter, Sabah Umno chief Datuk Musa Aman promised to look for the best possible way to overcome the fears.

"Sabah Umno will allay whatever fears (among party members) arise once PBS is accepted back into BN," said Musa, who is also State Finance Minister.

PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan had on Nov 15 submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the party's application to rejoin the BN which it left in 1990.

The BN supreme council meeting is scheduled to meet on Jan 31 to discuss PBS' application.

Sharing Musa's sentiment, Sabah Umno information chief Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail said it was not necessary for Umno to compromise too much in the distribution of Government posts.

"I don't think the Cabinet positions and other key positions held by Sabah Umno leaders in the State Government will be affected with PBS' re-entry into BN," he said.

Rahim, who is the convention chairman, said a proposal to Sabah Umno not to nominate divisional leaders with vested interests to contest in the next general election was another resolution passed at the convention.

The delegates also proposed to the State Government to give priority to Bumiputera contractors when awarding contracts.

The day-long convention was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

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