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BN components expected to accept PBS back

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. - The 13 Barisan Nasional component parties are expected to unanimously accept Parti Bersatu Sabah back into the BN's fold at its supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will chair the meeting at 4pm.

PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan and his deputy Dr Maximus Ongkili submitted the party's application to rejoin BN to Dr Mahathir on Nov 15 last year.

Leaders of BN component members had expressed their support for the application.

During his recent visit to Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he knew that all BN component parties would not object to PBS' application.

He said all BN component parties would be given a chance to give their views on the matter at the meeting.

Going by BN tradition, a consensus from all component parties is required for PBS to be readmitted.

The 13 BN component parties are Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan, PPP, PBB, SNAP, SUPP, PBDS, PBRs, UPKO, LDP and SAPP.

The PBS, which ruled Sabah from 1985 to 1994, left the BN just before the 1990 general election.

PBS leaders had said that the party was prepared to contribute to nation-building.

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