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PBB president pledges stable leadership

SANTUBONG, Sat. - Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud pledged today that the party will not let the people down, but will continue to provide a stable leadership in Sarawak.

"As the people have been giving their support to the PBB leadership for years, it is natural that the party will remain the backbone of the State Government," he said at the joint opening of the PBB Youth and Wanita triennial delegates convention here.

"Members must continue to nurture the party so it will remain strong, able to unite the people of all walks of life and continue to provide leadership," he said.

Taib, who is the Chief Minister, said the party would continue to receive support from the people so long as its leaders stuck to the party's objectives.

"Any change in leadership will destroy the party if future leaders deviate from such objectives," he said, adding that he would not allow any change in leadership at various levels to affect party unity and strength.

Taib also said party members, who were businessmen, should not use their business tactics to get posts in the party.

"If we allow such tactics to be used, then we will not be able to see members, who are capable and have the abilities, assuming greater responsibilities and become leaders," he said.

Outgoing PBB Youth leader Datuk Gramong Juna expressed the hope that Taib would continue to be the Chief Minister and PBB president since his services were still needed by the party and State.

"There is no denying that he has provided the leadership that has enabled Sarawak to become among the most dynamic and progressive States in Malaysia," he said.

Gramong said PBB Youth respected the decision of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to resign as Prime Minister and Umno president in October next year.

"PBB Youth, together with the Youth wings of other Sarawak Barisan Nasional component parties, wishes to give our continued support to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said.

Gramong thanked PBB Youth members for their support to him since taking over the Youth leadership four years ago and he hoped similar support would be given to Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Douglas Uggah, the new movement's leader.

Wanita PBB leader Datin Paduka Sharifah Mordiah Tuanku Fauzi urged all quarters to help in the fight against social ills, such as incest, rape, domestic violence, dadah addiction and abandoning of babies.