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Pairin glad PBS is back in coalition

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - "Relieved and happy" was Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan's first reaction to his party's re-admission to the Barisan Nasional which it left 11 years ago.

He said much time has been utilised in the past in the context of politics and that the time has come to work together in the larger interest of the country and the people.

"The approval of PBS' re-admission into the BN will start a new chapter of better relations within Malaysia, and, within Sabah, in particular," Pairin told a Press conference at his residence at Taman Bersatu here.

As Pairin was giving the Press conference at about 8pm, members of the PBS supreme council and supporters started trickling to his house.

Pairin pledged that he and his PBS colleagues would try their level best to give expression to their patriotic commitments as Malaysians and as leaders of a party which was now in the BN.

He hoped that those who still had doubts on the PBS wanting to rejoin the BN would give the party time to demonstrate its sincerity.

Asked about the system of rotating the Sabah Chief Minister's post among the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese, Pairin said the PBS remained with its stand that it should be scrapped.

Pairin thanked Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and all BN component party leaders for accepting PBS back.

"I would like to express our wholehearted thanks and appreciation to Dr Mahathir, as chairman of BN, for having given our application positive consideration and approval, and for having forgiven me."

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