

31 MAY 2002

Opposition-Sabah

PAS AND FRIENDS ASPIRE TO TAKE OVER ROLE OF PBS IN SABAH

KOTA BAHARU, May 31 (Bernama) -- PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor today envisioned the role of the opposition pact comprising PAS, Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) as a leading opposition party in Sabah in the forthcoming general election.

He said this was to fill the void left by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) which had rejoined Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Since PBS is no longer the opposition, our opposition pact would like to play the role of the opposition and the prospects are good," he told the media after opening the 48th PAS Assembly here.

He said the position of the opposition in a state was crucial and even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had stated earlier that the opposition was necessary.

"PAS and the opposition pact will be going to Sabah. The people everywhere would need an opposition," he said.

PBS was readmitted as a component of the Barisan Nasional (BN) on Jan 23.

Fadzil said the party would maintain the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim "issue" to win over the people, although Umno regarded the issue as stale.

He said based on the people's support, PAS was confident of capturing Kedah, Perlis, and Pahang while creating shockwaves in other states such as Perak and Selangor.

He said the delineation exercise in several states including Sabah and Sarawak was unfair as Terengganu, under PAS, had not been given priority to increase the number of seats for the last 20 years although the number of voters had been growing.

-- BERNAMA

RAR PR ANA