

29 JUN 2002

PBS RESPECTS DR MAHATHIR'S WISHES, BACKS ABDULLAH

KOTA KINABALU, June 29 (Bernama) -- The Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) Supreme Council has passed a motion accepting Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to resign from all posts in Umno, Barisan Nasional (BN) and the government after October next year.

PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said PBS also accepts and respects Dr Mahathir's wishes to appoint Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the next Umno President, BN Chairman and the Prime Minister when Dr Mahathir resigns.

"The PBS Supreme Council members pledge to continue to trust and give their solid support to the new BN leadership under Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, when the time comes for him to take over as Chairman of BN and as Prime Minister," he said in a statement today.

At the same time the party also expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Dr Mahathir for his leadership, contributions and services be it in his personal capacity or as Prime Minister and BN Chairman.

PBS describes Dr Mahathir as a leader who effectively established political stability, prosperity and wellbeing of society as well as a peaceful and harmonious environment for people of all races in the country.

"We are grateful to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and admit that he is an exceptional political leader and statesman with the vision, calibre, personality and boldness to voice his opinions to uphold Malaysia's good name internationally," said Pairin.

-- BERNAMA

JS VRM/AO