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`Sarawak people in peninsula can join Umno'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - People from Sarawak staying in the peninsula can join Umno but will not be allowed to set up any branch in Sarawak.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said they were free to become Umno members outside Sarawak as Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), which is the Barisan Nasional's backbone in the State, did not have any branch in the peninsula.

"If they reside here, it's okay for them to join Umno," he said after attending a Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house hosted by former Dewan Negara Speaker Tan Sri Abang Ahmad Urai Abang Mohideen.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Abang Ahmad Urai, 68, from Sarawak, is the Jalan Yap Kwan Seng Umno branch chief.

Also present at the open house were former Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Jamil Johari and MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Dr Mahathir said although there were people from Sarawak who had joined Umno here, their number was small.

He also said Umno had no plan to spread its wings to Sarawak although it was made an issue in the Sarawak State election last year.

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