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Chong-PBS

BN TO DISCUSS PBS' APPLICATION NEXT WEEK

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) is expected to know by next week the outcome of the party's application to rejoin the Barisan Nasional (BN), the national ruling coalition it left abruptly in 1990.

Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today he had received notification from the BN headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to attend a BN meeting on Jan 23.

Asked what he thinks of PBS' chances of being readmitted into the BN, Chong, who is Sabah BN chairman, said he believed that the BN component parties would not object to PBS' application.

"I believe all the component parties, not only in Sabah but also at the national level, have expressed their views to welcome PBS and I hope we can proceed to accept the application," he said.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the state weekly cabinet meeting, Chong said that from their previous statements, it was clear that leaders of the BN component parties supported the application.

"I hope everyone will maintain their respective stand," he said.

PBS' application was handed over by its president, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, to Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 15.

Asked whether there was a need for the BN to set conditions for the PBS to remain with the coalition and not to repeat the 1990 incident, Chong said that it was not necessary.

"Among the many parties in the BN, PBS is one party which has the experience of staying out of the BN and it is aware of the consequences of its action," he said.

On fear that PBS' re-entry into the BN may affect the position of other component parties in Sabah, Chong said the matter should not arise.

"PBS' application which was submitted to the BN is without any condition. I myself have had the opportunity to meet Datuk Pairin and not once had he asked for this and that," he said.

-- BERNAMA

JS RM