

15 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Crossover

PM ACCEPTS UMNO MEMBERSHIP FORMS FROM 150 PAS SUPPORTERS

PENDANG, July 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today accepted Umno membership forms from 150 PAS supporters in the Pendang parliamentary constituency.

The membership forms were submitted to Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, after the launching of the state-level Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day here.

Ayob Yahya, 52, a PAS branch committee member, led 10 representatives of the group to hand over the membership forms.

Ayob, who has been a PAS member for over 20 years, said that they decided to join Umno as there had not been any changes initiated by PAS in the constituency.

"I believe that only the Barisan Nasional (BN) can bring development to the Pendang constituency," he said.

Meanwhile, BN executive secretary, Senator Datuk Yaakob Mohammad said that the 150 PAS supporters had intended to join Umno for quite some time but did not have a chance to do so as they were afraid that they would be isolated by the villagers, the majority of whom were PAS supporters.

He said that more PAS supporters were interested to join Umno and another group of 150 was expected to hand over their membership forms to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi within the next few days.

-- BERNAMA

MNH RM