

05/09/2003

Dr M to open annual congress of PBS

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. - Parti Bersatu Sabah's 18th annual congress is historical because it will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, party secretary-general Datuk Radin Malleh said today.

He added that Dr Mahathir's attendance is a reflection that the party has been "fully accepted" as part of the Barisan Nasional family.

The PBS was accused of "back-stabbing" by Dr Mahathir and other BN leaders when it abruptly withdrew from the coalition on the eve of the general elections in 1990.

"We are thankful and grateful to the Prime Minister for accepting our invitation to open the congress despite his busy schedule," he told a Press conference here.

He said Dr Mahathir's presence would boost the morale of party members as it prepares for the next general election.

Radin said PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan will, in his speech, pay tribute to Dr Mahathir for his excellent leadership.

The party has chosen "Patriotism the Basis for Unity" as the theme of its congress in support for Dr Mahathir's relentless call to all Malaysians to be patriotic in the face of internal and external challenges.

Radin said a resolution on land matters, economy of Bumiputera, education and social problems would be tabled at the congress.