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Father of National Unity award for Dr Mahathir hailed as timely

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - The Father of National Unity award presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by Parti Bersatu Sabah is a timely and appropriate move.

Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman said PBS made a wise decision as Dr Mahathir is expected to step down next month.

"We (the State Government) are happy and support the decision to present the award. Our Prime Minister wants a united Malaysia and has strived for all races and faiths to live in harmony," he said after seeing Dr Mahathir off at the old airport terminal here today.

PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan presented the award to Dr Mahathir after the Prime Minister opened the party's 18th annual delegates conference at the Kadazandusun Cultural Association building, near here.

Musa said Sabah was a good example of unity as there were many races and ethnic groups living in a peaceful environment.

To a question, Musa said he had not discussed the next State election, due in April next year, with Dr Mahathir.

Musa said the Government would look into resolutions and a proposed power-sharing formula suggested by the Sabah Progressive Party yesterday at the party's 10th annual congress.

Apart from the issue of rotating the Chief Minister's post, SAPP also highlighted the need to curb gambling activities and the importance of education.