

Jeffrey Kitingan now turns to Keadilan

• **ByRoyGoh**

roygoh@nst.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Maverick politician Datuk Jeffrey Kitingan, whose application to join Umno three years ago was rejected, has joined opposition Parti Keadilan Rakyat,

Jeffrey, the younger brother of Datuk Joseph Pairing Kitingan, leader of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and also Sabah Deputy Chief Minister, presented his application form to Keadilan advisor Datuk Sori Anwar Ibrahim in Tambunan, about 70km from here, on Saturday.

Jeffrey has been in and out of PBS a

few times, and also joined and left other Sabah-based parties, such as Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, Akar and Upko.

At the Tambunan rally attended by about 5,000 people, Anwar accepted Jeffrey's, application together with 17,870 others from Tambunan, Sook, Liawan, Kemabong, Nabawan, Ranau and Kawang.

Anwar said Jeffrey would play an important role in the party's national agenda.

"His (Jeffrey) presence in the party will be incorporated in the national leadership in carrying Out its agenda," he said when met here yesterday.

At Saturday's rally, Jeffrey an-

nounced his "Tambunan Declaration", a seven-point agenda based on the 20-Point Agreement decreed during the formation of Malaysia,

Among others, the declaration demands the appointment of a deputy prime minister from Sabah or Sarawak and increase in the state's petroleum royalty from five to 20 per cent.

Tambunan is a symbolic gesture for Jeffrey as it is his allegedly-estranged brother Pairin's seat for 30 years.

Pairin's PBS led the state government from 1985 to 1994. It was part of the Barisan Nasional during its first five years in power.

The party left BN in 1990 but lost to the Umno-led coalition four years later after most of its state assemblymen crossed over to the other side. PBS rejoined BN in 2002.