

## **Bersatu to spread wings to Sarawak - Dr M**

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PETALING JAYA, June 25 (Bernama) -- Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) plans to spread its wings to Sarawak in fulfilling the wishes of the people there, Bersatu chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Prime Minister, said the proposed move was also in line with the current situation in Sarawak where the political parties in Pakatan Harapan, such as PKR and Amanah, had ventured there, besides PAS.

Dr Mahathir said Bersatu would not venture to Sabah because Parti Warisan Sabah was already there and it was regarded as an ally of Bersatu and Pakatan Harapan.

"At this moment, the situation in Sarawak is that all the Sarawak parties are forming their own coalition. So, since PKR is there, Amanah is there, even PAS is there, so we think that it is proper for us to go there," he said at a press conference after chairing a meeting of the Bersatu Supreme Leadership Council here.

Dr Mahathir also said that Bersatu had received many requests from UMNO members to join the party.

He said ordinary UMNO members could join Bersatu directly but UMNO leaders and elected representatives would have to be screened first before they were accepted into Bersatu.

"We find that the PPBM (Bersatu) culture and philosophy are different from UMNO's. So, if they want to join PPBM (Bersatu), they have to learn and accept our culture and philosophy," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that Bersatu had never discussed or decided on the intention of two

former UMNO elected representatives - Tambun Tulang (Perlis) state assemblyman Datuk Ismail Kassim and Bagan Serai (Perak) MP Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali - to join Bersatu.

The Prime Minister said Bersatu would hold its Aidilfitri 'open house' on July 6 in Bukit Merah, Perak, and its second anniversary celebration in September.

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