

SECRETARY GENERAL PBS

Press Release
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KOTA BELUD – PBS members and supporters were reminded to understand and appreciate PBS political vision to unite and bring development to the people of Sabah

PBS Secretary General, Henrynus Amin, said PBS was founded in 1985 in response to the overriding need for unity against the backdrop of racial and religious tensions.

Speaking during the opening of the Kadamaian PBS Annual general meeting at Kg Tamu Darat yesterday, he said Pairin galvanized the people Sabah into a cohesive force as a united voice regardless of race and religion to fight for justice.

He said Pairin was then just an ordinary young leader when he responded to the call for duty with conviction in spite of knowing fully well the huge responsibility he must bear that lie ahead.

Pairin almost single-handedly started PBS from scratch, creating his team from among political unknowns except one of two senior political leaders to form PBS core leadership.

“It was sheer courage and supreme confidence in God Almighty, his character and competence as political capital that allowed him to take the bold step of building a team into what PBS is today,” he said.

He said reminded PBS members that PBS had rejoined the BN to fulfill its responsibility to the people of Sabah.

Pairin knew PBS members and supporters would be loyal to him and PBS even if he stayed as an opposition leader, but he also realized he cannot help the people or realize the party’s visions for Sabah and noble objectives merely by shouting from the opposition bench.

The people of Sabah especially the interior Kadazandusun and Murut, and the Bajau Suluk community in the remote islands, even low income Chinese urban community who constituted PBS core supporters are still in dire need of development and government help.

Pairin had responded to his conscience and mounting call from within to do the right things by integrating and bringing PBS members and supporters back to the political and economic mainstream.

“It was a water shed decision that fundamentally changed and reshaped the political landscape of Sabah into what it is today,” he said.

Yet Pairin did not make the decision alone, as he had consulted the PBS political bureau, supreme council and then brought the issue of rejoining BN to the PBS annual delegates' conference in 2002 to be debated and approved.

“Not every one was pleased with the proposal to rejoin the BN, but there was a broad consensus to empower the PBS supreme council to make the decision subject to safeguards in the interest of the people of Sabah.

PBS has since matured and proven its loyalty to the BN coalition.

Contrary to insinuation, PBS strong statements in the press were not hollow statements staged for public consumptions.

PBS is committed to the BN concept and would like it to become stronger.

PBS has given its full support to the political ideals of the 1Malaysia concept as it reflects PBS motto, “Patriotism as the basis for unity,” that is to love Malaysia.

He said PBS believes 1Malaysia is a call for all Malaysians to strive to love the country, to be united in vision, mission and goals to bring about peace, racial harmony and economic prosperity to the people of Malaysia regardless of race and religion.

He said PBS expects the BN to change its political super structure to reflect the 1Malaysia concept.

On that count, he said, UMNO as the dominant force in BN Sabah must take a leading role to reshape and restructure the BN political super structure including the power sharing system as a national strategy to strengthen the BN coalition.

“UMNO as the backbone of the BN coalition and other BN component political parties must change and strategize their basic approach to politics to ensure the BN leadership continues to have the confidence of the people of Sabah,” he said.

He added, “UMNO as a close friend of PBS cannot take for granted the support of its coalition partners if political issues are not adequately addressed, such as the issue of illegal immigrants, power sharing within the BN coalition, equal opportunity or equal access to economic opportunities and so on.

On the issue of PBS demand for time frame to resolve the illegal immigrant problem by 2102, he said it is not an ultimatum if taken positively.

He said PBS merely stamped its foot down by giving stern warning of the serious need for the illegal immigrant issue to be resolved before the general election and offer no apology for doing so.

“The time frame is needed as BN must account for its action or inaction on the issue,” he said without mincing his words.

“There is no need to speculate on the outcome if the BN failed to respond to the PBS demand for time frame to solve the illegal immigrant problem by 2012,” he said pointing out that PBS top priority now is to get the issue of illegal immigrant solved once and for all.

For that matter, PBS must disagree publicly with federal stand to make the issue of illegal immigrant a local issue, and not a national priority.

He said “Unless Sabah illegal immigration problem is dealt with as a national issue that requires national solution, the commitment of the federal government to tackle the illegal immigrant problem will always be in doubt.”

He said there is no reason why the federal government cannot include the issue of illegal immigration in the National Key Results Areas (NKRA) to get enforcement agencies produce tangible results unless there are other political agenda that PBS does not know.

He said PBS is expressing fear the BN coalition in Sabah may be rendered weak, fragile and vulnerable to opposition propaganda attack if BN Sabah fails to act on the various issues.

He said BN must be reminded of the Prime Minister’s call to change before the people change them.

During the function, Datuk Henrynus also receive more than 1,000 new applications to join PBS including from Robert Meisin Sendulun, a Kadamaian veteran politician who was recently politically aligned to PKR.

Robert in his short speech rejected the opposition party and proclaimed his desire to contribute to the unity of the people of Sabah through PBS as the right vehicle for his political struggle.

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