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CABINET-UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, MAR 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, WILL ALSO BE ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF UMNO, DATUK HUSSEIN ONN SAID HERE TODAY.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS AFTER HE HAD ANNOUNCED HIS NEW CABINET, DATUK HUSSEIN SAID THAT DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY COULD BE ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT UNTIL THE NEXT ELECTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DATUK HUSSEIN WAS ASKED WHETHER DR. MAHATHIR WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID: +NOT NECESSARILY SO. HE CAN BE ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

DATUK HUSSEIN WHO IS ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY SAID THAT DR. MAHATHIR COULD BE MADE ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT AS HAD HAPPENED TO HIM.

WHEN TUN DR. ISMAIL PASSED AWAY IN 1973, DATUK HUSSEIN WAS APPOINTED ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT BY THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK WHO WAS THEN PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY.

DATUK HUSSEIN ADDED THAT THIS WAS PROVIDED UNDER THE UMNO CONSTITUTION. -- BERNAMA 1931/ZCM