

MAHATHIR-BERJASA

78 P
KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 15 (BERNAMA) — BERJASA'S DECISION NOT TO JOIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL NOT SPLIT MALAY VOTES, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY.

WITH BERJASA'S DECISION IT WAS NOW EASY FOR UMNO — A DOMINANT PARTNER IN THE BARISAN — TO CONVINCING ITS MEMBERS NOT TO VOTE FOR BERJASA.

IN THE PAST, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE 1974 ELECTIONS, UMNO FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO CONVINCING ITS MEMBERS TO VOTE FOR PAS CANDIDATES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A BRIEFING AT THE PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO VICE PRESIDENT OF UMNO, SAID THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BARISAN AND BERJASA IN KELANTAN WOULD STILL CONTINUE.

IN FACT AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL THE TWO BERJASA MINISTERS — LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL TERRITORY MINISTER, HAJI HASSAN ADLI AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER, DATUK MOHAMAD NASIR — WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN THE CABINET.

+HOWEVER, WE MAY REVIEW THEIR POSITIONS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS,+ HE ADDED. BERNAMA MORE 1350/RH

MAHATHIR - BERJASA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY BERJASA HAD REFUSED TO JOIN THE FRONT WAS BECAUSE ITS REQUEST TO USE ITS OWN SYMBOL WAS REJECTED BY THE BARISAN'S SUPREME COUNCIL.

+WE HAVE MADE A RULING THAT ALL COMPONENT PARTIES OF BARISAN MUST CONTEST UNDER THE DACING SYMBOL AND WE CANNOT MAKE EXCEPTIONS,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS, HE SAID BY AND LARGE DATUK HUSSEIN+ RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCE THAT MAY ARISE.+

+SURELY THERE WILL BE DISSATISFACTIONS INITIALLY, BUT WHEN A FINAL DECISION IS MADE, I THINK ALL BARISAN COPONENT PARTIES WILL CLOSE RANK AND FIGHT THE ELECTIONS AS ONE UNITED FRONT.+

ON THE QUESTION OF SEAT ALLOCATION IN PERAK, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS THE FRONT'S DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS FOR THE STATE, SAID +WE HAVE COME VERY CLOSE TO A SOLUTION.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST BARISAN COMPONENT PARTY MEMBERS CONTESTING AS INDEPENDENT CAIDIDATES IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION. — BERNAMMA