

N100: (F)
PM-RAHIM 2'2'2'

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 23 (BERNAMA) — PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED) TODAY OFFICIALLY TOLD PAHANG MENTERI BESAR HAJI ABDUL RAHIM ABD BAKAR THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A MEMBER OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION.

HAJI RAHIM DISCLOSED THIS TO REPORTERS AFTER MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS OFFICE. HE HOWEVER DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HE WOULD STEP DOWN AS MENTERI BESAR BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE OR TAKE THREE MONTHS' LEAVE TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID DURING THE 45-MINUTE MEETING, NAMES OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES TO RUN THE STATE DURING HIS ABSENCE WERE MENTIONED BUT HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THE LIKELY CANDIDATE.

+I'M GIVING THE PRIME MINISTER THE PRIVILEGE TO ANNOUNCE THE DECISION OF MY GOING TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALSO THE MAN TO SUCCEED ME AS IT IS NOT MY PROBLEM ALONE,+ HE ADDED WHEN PRESSED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE.

HAJI RAHIM SAID THAT DURING THE MEETING, LATEST DEVELOPMENT ON STATE POLITICS WERE RAISED IN A +FRANK, SINCERE AND CORDIAL MANNER.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1951/LK

PM-RAHIM 2' KUALA LUMPUR 2'2'2'

+I SAID WHAT I WANT TO SAY SINCERELY AND WE AGREED ON ISSUES INVOLVING STATE POLITICAL AFFAIRS.+

THE MENTERI BESAR DISCLOSED THE POSSIBILITY OF +SOMEONE AMONG THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY+ WHO WOULD BE REPLACING HIM BECAUSE IF A CANDIDATE FROM THE FEDERAL LEVEL WAS BROUGHT IN, A BY-ELECTION WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD.

+THEN, I WILL HAVE TO STAY LONGER,+ HE QUIPPED.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD OBJECT TO HIS GOING TO THE UNITED NATIONS, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LEADER.

QUOTING A VERSE FROM THE QURAN, HE SAID, +DISCIPLINE IS THE KEY. IF YOU CAN'T OBEY GOD, THE PROPHET OR YOUR LEADER, YOUR PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO OWE ALLEGIANCE TO YOU.+

SPECULATION IS RIFE THAT THE DECISION TO SEND HIM TO THE U.N. WAS A SUBTLE WAY OF PHASING HIM OUT OF THE STATE POLITICAL SCENE.

COMMENTING ON THIS, HAJI RAHIM SAID IT WAS PART OF A GAME, AS ONE WHO +IS UP+ SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GO DOWN. — BERNAMA MORE 1951/LK

PM-RAHIM 3' KUALA LUMPUR 2'2'2'

+I FIND IT A VERY INTERESTING FACT OF LIFE SOME PEOPLE WOULD PAY TO GET IN THE LIMELIGHT AND I'M GETTING IT FREE.

+IT WILL BE FOOLISH FOR A POLITICAN TO FIGHT WHEN THEY ARE OUSTED OUT OF THE ARENA.+

IN A PHILOSOPHICAL MOOD, THE MENTERI BESAR SAID LIFE WAS FULL OF SACRIFICES AND INVOLVED PROCESSES OF HAVING TO MAKE CHOICES.

WHEN ONE IS FACED WITH A SITUATION, ONE HAS TO MAKE A CHOICE WITHOUT DEPENDING ON ANYONE,+ HE ADDED, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO DISSATISFACTIONS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO ARE UNHAPPY OVER HIS APPOINTMENT AS MENTERI BESAR.

HE REGARDED HIS PRESENT DILEMMA AS FATED BY GOD AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT WHATEVER GOD HAD IN STORE FOR HIM.

+I ACCEPT IT AS A BLESSED EVENT IN MY LIFE AS I BELIEVE ONE WILL NEVER BE HAPPY IF ONE CAN'T FIND BLESSINGS IN HARDSHIPS.+

— BERNAMA MORE 2007/LK

N105:
PM-RAHIM 4 KUALA LUMPUR 2010/LK

THE MENTERI BESAR SAID SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE HAPPY TO BECOME A MENTERI BESAR JUST FOR THE NAME ONLY, BUT TO HIM, THE POST MEANT SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT.

HE SAID HE WORRIED A LOT FOR THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE HE REPRESENTS AS HE IS CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT HE EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID PERSONALITIES DID NOT COME INTO THE PICTURE AT ALL IN THE RUNNING OF A STATE, AS ANYONE COULD COME AND GO.

ZI STAND FOR MY INTEGRITY AND THE PEOPLE AND THEY DON'T SUPPORT ME BECAUSE I AM RAHIM BAKAR, + HE ADDED.

+I BELIEVE IN WHAT I'M DOING, I BELIEVE IN WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE STATE AND ON BALANCE, I THINK I'VE DONE SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE STATE, + HE STRESSED, COMMENTING ON REMARKS THAT HE SHOULD HAVE STEPPED DOWN LONG AGO IN VIEW OF THE PROLONGED CRISIS IN THE STATE OVER HIS APPOINTMENT.

ASKED ABOUT HIS FUTURE PLANS, HE SAID HE HAD NOT GIVEN THOUGHT TO THEM. — BERNAMA MORE 2010/LK

N106 (F)
PM - RAHIM 5 KUALA LUMPUR

REFLECTING ON HIS THREE YEARS' TENURE AS MENTERI BESAR, HAJI RAHIM SAID HE GAINED A LOT OF GROUND IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE STATE BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS REALLY QUANTIFY HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

HE SAID ONLY THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WOULD TESTIFY TO THIS. HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON ALLEGATIONS OF FORMER LAW MINISTER, DATUK SERI HAMZAH ABU SAMAH, THAT HE DID NOT COMMAND THE CONFIDENCE OF THE OFFICERS AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE STATE.

+I DON'T WANT TO FOLLOW THE SAME GAME OF SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT EVERYONE AS IT WOULD BE A VICIOUS CIRCLE WITH EVERYONE BLAMING ON ANOTHER. +

HOWEVER HE DISAGREED WITH THE ALLEGATIONS THAT MOST OF THE BILLS PASSED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY WERE NOT GIVEN ROYAL ASSENT.

HE SAID ONLY ONE BILL — ON THE ALLOWANCE OF THE STATE COUNCILLORS — WAS NOT APPROVED. — BERNAMA 2031/MK