

NO39 (F)
MAHATHIR-HARUN 𠵼'𠵼'𠵼'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 16 (BERNAMA) — THE DECISION ENABLING FORMER SELANGOR MENTRI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS TO STAND FOR A VICE-PRESIDENCY IN THE FORTHCOMING UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS A COLLECTIVE DECISION BY THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT NO ONE INDIVIDUAL COULD CLAIM THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY INFLUENCED THE COUNCIL IN THE MATTER.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE, HE SAID:
+THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL WAS A COLLECTIVE DECISION AND ALL MEMBERS RESPECT DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AS THE PARTY PRESIDENT WHO ANNOUNCED THAT DATUK HARUN CAN CONTEST IN THE PARTY ELECTIONS+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS COMMENTING ON A REPORT IN THE LOCAL PRESS SAYING THAT FINANCE MINISTER, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR URGING THE SUPREME COUNCIL INTO SUCH A DECISION.

THE REPORT QUOTED SOURCES AS SAYING THAT TENGKU RAZALEIGH — ONE OF THE TWO UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT CANDIDATES — HAD ARGUED STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF DATUK HARUN IN THE FACE OF NON-COMMITAL SILENCE BY MAJORITY OF SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS.

—BERNAMA MORE 1549/AN

MAHATHIR-HARUN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S ENTREATY WAS SUPPORTED BY FORMER UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL, DATUK SENU ABDUL RAHMAN AND FORMER DEPUTY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DATUK RAMLI OMAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE COULD NOT SEE HOW NEWSPAPERS COULD SINGLE OUT ANY ONE PERSON AS THE CHAMPION ESPOUSING DATUK HARUN'S CAUSE.

ASKED HOW PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN KEPT CONFIDENTIAL WERE LEAKED TO THE PRESS HE JOKINGLY SAID +PERHAPS SOMEONE IN THE SUPREME COUNCIL IS ON THE PAYROLL OF THE 'PAPERS'+

—BERNAMA 1551/AN