

4029 (F)
MAHATHIR-CABINET
DM

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 27³⁾ (BERNAMA) — (P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS NOT EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE CABINET WHEN HE TAKES OVER AS PRIME MINISTER ON DATUK HUSSEIN ONN'S RETIREMENT SOON.

HE INDICATED THIS TO REPORTERS AFTER THE VOTING FOR THE 20 SEATS IN THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WAS COMPLETED TODAY.

THE NEW UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE CANDIDATES FOR YESTERDAY'S ELECTION WERE DEFEATED DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE TO SERVE THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PARTY.

WINNING OR LOSING WAS A NORMAL THING IN A CONTEST, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEST FOR PARTY POST WHICH WERE LIMITED IN NUMBER.

ASKED WHEN HE WOULD FORM HIS CABINET, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHEN DATUK HUSSEIN WOULD RETIRE.

—BERNAMA MORE 1350/AN

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HOWEVER, HIS MAIN TASK WAS TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTY PRESIDENT A POST TO WHICH HE WAS ELECTED YESTERDAY.

→ I HAVE NEVER CHAIRED A SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE ALTHOUGH

I HAVE CHAIRED SEVERAL CABINET MEETINGS, + HE ADDED.

ASKED ON THE POSITION OF TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WHO WAS DEFEATED IN THE CONTEST FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT THINK TENGKU RAZALEIGH WOULD LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PARTY.

→ I THINK HE HAS THE PARTY'S INTEREST AT HEART AND A SENCE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS IT — WE ALL WORK FOR THE PARTY AND NOT FOR OUR SELF-INTERESTS, + HE SAID.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PASS MAKING A COMEBACK IN KELANTAN FOLLOWING TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S DEFEAT, AS CLAIMED BY SOME QUARTERS, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN.

HE DISMISSED IT AS A MERE CAMPAIGN TALK.

—BERNAMA 1412/AN

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