

1412/LX

HUSSEIN-FAREWELL

BY IDZAN ISMAIL

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 14 (BERNAMA) — DATUK HUSSEIN ONN WILL HAND OVER THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER TO (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) IN A SHORT AND SIMPLE CEREMONY AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT ON THURSDAY.

THE FAREWELL WILL BE BRIEF WITHOUT THE FANFARE WHICH USUALLY ACCOMPANIES THE DEPARTURE OF A NATION'S LEADER.

THE CEREMONY WILL STRICTLY BE A +FAMILY+ AFFAIR. DATUK HUSSEIN WILL BID FAREWELL TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND STAFFERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

FROM THAT TIME, HE BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER IN HIS LIFE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WILL EARLIER BE SWORN IN AS THE FOURTH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA AT THE ISTANA NEGARA. — BERNAMA MORE

HUSSEIN-FAREWELL 2 KUALA LUMPUR

SOURCES SAID THE QUIET EXIT IS IN TUNE WITH DATUK HUSSEIN'S QUIET BRAND OF LEADERSHIP.

THEY SAID THAT DATUK HUSSEIN HAD REQUESTED THAT HIS FAREWELL BE JUST LIKE ANY ORDINARY DAY IN THE DEPARTMENT.

NEVERTHELESS, THE TUMULTUOUS AND TEARFUL FAREWELL ACCORDED HIM AT THE RECENT UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY DELEGATES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHEN HE HANDED OVER THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, SHOWED THAT HE WAS LOVED AND WOULD BE SORELY MISSED.

DATUK HUSSEIN WILL CHAIR HIS LAST CABINET MEETING TOMORROW.

HE WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE LEADERS OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL AT THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE LAST TIME IN SRI TAMAN.

HIS OTHER LAST PUBLIC FUNCTIONS INCLUDED THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AT THE CLOSING OF THE ARMED FORCES QURAN-READING COMPETITION LAST WEEK AND THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF UMNO'S NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. —

BERNAMA MORE 1617/82

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HUSSEIN-FAREWELL 3 KUALA LUMPUR

MEANWHILE, BERNAMA LEARNED THAT UMNO IS PLANNING TO GIVE DATUK HUSSEIN A GRAND FAREWELL DINNER WHICH WILL BE HOSTED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BESTOW ON HIM A SUITABLE TOKEN WHICH BEFITS THE DIGNITY AND STATUS OF A MAN WHO VOLUNTARILY RETIRED AS PRIME MINISTER. — BERNAMA 1620/82