

MAHATHIR-CHAIRMAN
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15 (BERNAMA) — (8) (p) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK OVER AS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SUCCEEDING DATUK HUSSEIN ONN WHO IS RETIRING FROM POLITICS.

DATUK HUSSEIN RELINQUISHED THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL AT A MEETING OF ITS SUPREME COUNCIL AT SRI TAMAN HERE THIS AFTERNOON. HE THEN NOMINATED DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TO TAKE OVER AND THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY LEADERS OF ALL 11 COMPONENT PARTIES INCLUDING THOSE FROM SABAH AND SARAWAK.

TOMORROW DATUK HUSSEIN RETIRES AS THE NATION'S THIRD PRIME MINISTER AND WILL HAND OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR. — BERNAMA MORE 1954/ZCM

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SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING WHICH LASTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR, DATUK HUSSEIN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND ALSO MEMBERS OF ALL COMPONENT PARTIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST AND PROGRESS ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT FACE MINOR PROBLEMS FROM TIME TO TIME.

HE SAID PROBLEMS FACED BY THE BARISAN NASIONAL WERE COMMON PROBLEMS AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT AFFECT THE FRONT'S STRENGTH NOW OR IN THE FUTURE.

DATUK HUSSEIN ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT UNDER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF LEADERS OF ALL COMPONENT PARTIES, THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD SUCCEED IN CONSOLIDATING ITS STRENGTH AND THE FAITH THE PEOPLE HAD IN IT. — BERNAMA MORE

MAHATHIR - CHAIRMAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+ I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL CONTINUE TO OBTAIN THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY, + HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, MCA PRESIDENT DATUK LEE SAN CHOON SAID THE MEETING ALSO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A MOTION OF THANKS TO DATUK HUSSEIN.

THE MOTION WAS INTRODUCED BY DATUK LEE AND SECONDED BY MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S. SAMY VELLU.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PLEDGED TO GIVE FULL COOPERATION TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS, PRESENTED AN ITALIAN SILVER TEA SET TO DATUK HUSSEIN AS A MEMENTO AT THE END OF THE MEETING. — BERNAMA 1940/AM