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 KOTA KINABALU, FEB. 15 (BERNAMA)—BOTH BERJAYA AND USNO WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THE BARISAN NASIONAL SYMBOL IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FOURTHCOMING ELECTIONS IN SABAH, ACTING PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

EACH PARTY WILL HAVE TO USE THEIR OWN SYMBOLS WITHOUT IN ANY WAY INVOLVING THE BARISAN NASIONAL SYMBOL, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING MEMBERS OF THE USNO SUPREME COUNCIL AT THE HOUSE OF PARTY PRESIDENT, TAN SRI MOHAMAD SAID KERUAK.

HE SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTIONS AND IN VIEW OF USNO, ALTHOUGH AN OPPOSITION IN THE STATE, BEING A COMPONENT PARTY OF BARISAN NASIONAL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT UMNO HAD ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO ITS MEMBERS NOT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN ANY CAMPAIGNING IN THE SABAH ELECTIONS.

"I BELIEVE THE OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL ADOPT A SIMILAR POSITION," HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE USNO COALITION WITH THE SABAH CONSOLIDATED CHINESE PARTY (SCCP) AND PASOK NUNUKRAGANG (PASOK) TO FORM THE BARISAN SABAH IN THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS A DOMESTIC MATTER.—BERNAMA MORE 2000/HM

MAHATHIR-SYMBOL 2 KOTA KINABALU ㉟'㉟'㉟'

HE DESCRIBED THE FORMULA ADOPTED BY USNO AND ITS PARTNERS AS SIMILAR TO THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UMNO AND BERJASA BEFORE BERJASA JOINED THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

"IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF WE WERE TO PROHIBIT OTHER FROM DOING WHAT WE OURSELVES HAVE DONE," HE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS SPEECH YESTERDAY PRAISING BERJASA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIEW OF BARISAN NASIONAL'S NEUTRAL STANCE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY THAT IT WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT FOR A PARTY TO PUT UP ITS OWN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

"I SAID THAT BERJASA HAD SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING UP ITS OWN BUILDING AND IT IS UP TO ANYONE TO MAKE THE INTERPRETATION," HE ADDED.

HE THEN SAID: "HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS AGAIN THAT BARISAN NASIONAL WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THE FORTHCOMING STATE ELECTIONS."

TAN SRI SAID KERUAK SAID USNO WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S REITERATION OF BARISAN NASIONAL'S NEUTRALITY.

—BERNAMA MORE 2010/HM

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MAHATHIR-SYMBOL 3 KOTA KINABALU ㉟'㉟'㉟'

HE SAID THAT USNO AND THE OTHER PARTIES IN BARISAN SABAH HAD ALMOST REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THEIR COALITION PACT. ONLY ONE OR TWO MATTERS, INCLUDING THOSE PERTAINING TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS FOR EACH PARTY, HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALISED.

TAN SRI SAID KERUAK ADDED THAT THE BARISAN SABAH PARTIES WILL STAND ON A JOINT MANIFESTO BUT EACH WILL USE THEIR OWN SYMBOLS FOR THE ELECTIONS.—BERNAMA 2015/MD