

MAHATHIR-POLITICS

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 6⁸¹ (BERNAMA) ^(P)—(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HIS APPOINTMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF OTHER UMNO LEADERS AS LIAISON CHIEF OF CERTAIN STATES WERE MADE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY ITSELF.

ON HIS POSITION AS PERAK LIAISON HEAD, HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO RELINQUISH THE POST IF ANY PERAK-BORN UMNO LEADER CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE BY THE PARTY WANTED THE POST.

+SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IF ANY PERAK-BORN PERSON CONSIDERED QUALIFIED FOR THE POST WANTS IT.

+THE DECISIONS MADE IN THE MATTER ARE AFTER ALL IN THE INTERESTS OF UMNO+.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS COMMENTING ON A REPORT CLAIMING THAT A GROUP IN THE PERAK UMNO WANTED THE POST TO BE GIVEN TO A PERAK-BORN UMNO MEMBER. --BERNAMA MORE 2035/MD

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ASKED TO COMMENT ON SPECULATIONS THAT DATUK HUSSEIN ONN MIGHT RETIRE AS PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS MUST BE ASKED OF DATUK HUSSEIN HIMSELF.

HE ALSO TOLD PRESSMEN THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR HIM TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMULA FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE UMBC ISSUE.

HE SAID THE TWO PROTAGONISTS IN THE ISSUE, THE MCA AND UMNO YOUTH, HAD LEFT THE ISSUE TO HIM TO RESOLVE AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT OF COMING TO A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO BOTH PARTIES.

ON THE SOCIETIES AMENDMENT ACT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF MAKING THE ACT LAW WAS PROPERLY FULFILLED AND THAT GAZETTING OF THE ACT SHOULD NORMALLY NOT TAKE TOO LONG. 2

HE ALSO ANSWERED QUESTIONS RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBJECT.

HE SAID THAT IF THE ACT WAS GAZETTED BEFORE THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE, ANY CONVICTED PRISONER INCLUDING FORMER SELANGOR MENTRI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS WHO WISHED TO STAND FOR ELECTION IN THE ASSEMBLY COULD APPLY FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE OPERATIONS OF THE ACT FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ACT PROVIDED FOR THIS. --BERNAMA 2041/MD