

MAHATHIR - ALLOCATION
BM

BY RACHMANN NORDIN

ALOR STAR, APRIL 6 (BERNAMA) -- ⁸⁷ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY THE FORMULA FOR DIVISION OF SEATS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES IS SO DEvised TO ENABLE EACH TO PLAY A ROLE IN SECURING FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION ANOTHER LEASE OF OFFICE ON APRIL 22.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, URGED ALL COMPONENT PARTIES INCLUDING THOSE NOT TAKING PART IN THE GENERAL ELECTION TO SET ASIDE SELF-INTERESTS AND WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN OVERWHELMING MANDATE FOR THE BN TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.

HE HOPED MEMBERS OF ALL COMPONENT PARTNERS HAD PREPARED THEMSELVES FOR A ROUND-THE-CLOCK COMMITMENT TO SECURING THIS OBJECTIVE DURING THE TWO-WEEK CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOLLOWING NOMINATION DAY TOMORROW.

THE BN MUST WIN THE MANDATE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLEDGES CONTAINED IN ITS MANIFESTO PROMISING A CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY ADMINISTRATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER MEETING BN PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES AND ELECTION WORKERS AT RESIDENCE OF THE KEDAH MENTRI BESAR AT MENTALOON NEAR HERE. --BERNAMA MORE 1938/AH

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HE SAID THAT IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES, THERE WERE SOME THAT WERE GIVEN A SLIGHTLY SMALLER ALLOCATION TO GIVE THE OTHER PARTNERS LIKE THE BERJASA PARTY A CHANCE TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTION.

ON SELECTION OF CANDIDATES, HE SAID VARIOUS FACTORS INCLUDING CAPABILITY AND AGE WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

ALTHOUGH PERSONAL AFFAIRS WERE ALSO A FACTOR, IT WAS NOT THE SOLE INFLUENCING FACTOR IN SELECTION OF CANDIDATES OTHERWISE +IT COULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US?+

ON NEW FACES AND OLD GUARDS, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT WHILE THE OLD GUARDS HAD THEIR INFLUENCE THE NEWCOMERS TOO WERE NOT LACKING IN INFLUENCE.

HE CONCEDED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME MEMBERS BEING DISGRUNTLED OVER NOT BEING CHOSEN AND EXHORTED THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FOLLOWERS TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTY INTERESTS OVER INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS. --BERNAMA MORE 1941/AH

ON BN'S ISSUES FOR THE ELECTION, HE SAID THAT THE BN DID NOT HAVE TO RAISE ISSUES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FRESH MANDATE.

BN FOR INSTANCE DID NOT NEED TO RESORT TO USING RELIGIOUS ISSUES TO WIN VOTES.

ON 'PAS' STRATEGY FOR THE 1982 GENERAL ELECTION WHICH STRESSES ON WINNING OF MORE SEATS RATHER THAN MERELY MORE MALAY VOTES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PARTIES LIKE PAS WERE ALWAYS COMING UP WITH NEW STRATEGIES.

EACH TIME PAS HAD TO FACE THE VOTERS IT ANNOUNCED A NEW PLATFORM ONLY TO FORGET ABOUT THE MATTER WHEN THE ELECTION WAS OVER.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT NEW FACES BE APPOINTED MENTRIS BESJR TO RESOLVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN CERTAIN STATES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S ONLY COMMENT WAS : +LET US WAIT AND SEE WHO AMONG THE NOMINEES WILL GET ELECTED.--BERNAMA 1945/AH