

MAHATHIR-WARNING

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 16 (BERNAMA) -- MCA AND GERAKAN WERE REMINDED TODAY THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIONS IN THE CABINET WOULD BE REDUCED PROPORTIONATELY IF THEY LOST THEIR SEATS DUE TO BICKERINGS BETWEEN THEM.

IN ISSUING THIS WARNING, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HE HAD TOLD LEADERS OF ALL ~~BARISAN NASIONAL~~ COMPONENT PARTIES TO EXPEL ANY MEMBERS WHO WORKED AGAINST OTHER BN CANDIDATES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING THE BN MANIFESTO AT THE BN HEADQUARTERS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF BN, SAID IF A BN PARTY SUPPORTED ANOTHER CANDIDATE CONTESTING AGAINST BN IN ONE CONSTITUENCY, THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN IN OTHER AREAS.

ASKED ON THE EXTENT OF COOPERATION AND BICKERINGS BETWEEN GERAKAN AND MCA, HE SAID THE SITUATION DIFFERED AMONG AREAS.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1550/SZ

NO67 (F)
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+IN SOME PLACES, WE FOUND THEY WERE COOPERATING VERY WELL BUT IN SOME AREAS THE COOPERATION WAS BAD BUT IT DEPENDS PURELY ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTIES IN THOSE AREAS,+ HE SAID.

+BUT IF THE TWO PARTIES SUBVERT EACH OTHER AND THEIR CANDIDATES LOSE (THE SEATS), I WILL NOT REPLACE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

+THEIR REPRESENTATION WILL BE PROPORTIONATE,+ HE ADDED.

+IF THEY LOSE, YOU WILL FIND A DIFFERENT KIND OF CABINET,+ HE STRESSED.

ON THE MCA LEADER DATUK LEE SAN CHOON'S DECISION TO CONTEST IN SEREMBAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS DATUK LEE'S OWN DECISION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1553/SZ

NO68 (F)
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+ DEFINATELY HE WAS NOT FORCED. FACT WE THOUGHT THAT WE WANTED HIM TO GO TO A SAFE SEAT BUT HE FEELS THAT SEREMBAN IS THE SAFE SEAT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS HIS CHOICE TO GO TO SEREMBAN AND I THINK DR. CHEN MAN HIN IS BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT IT IS NOT SO SAFE FOR THE DAP,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BN CANDIDATE FOR KEPONG WHICH HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS NOT IN LINE WITH THE BN POLICY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY COULD JUST BE HIS STRATEGY TO WIN THE ELECTION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A MEMBER OF THE RULING BN COULD INFLUENCE THE THINKING AND POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN +SCREAMING+ AND CRITICISING FROM OUTSIDE WHICH WOULD NOT BRING ANY BENEFIT AT ALL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO SABAH AND SARAWAK, CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD A RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM FROM USNO. -- BERNAMA MORE 1555/SZ

NO69 (F)
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HE SAID HE WAS STILL STUDYING THE MEMORANDUM AND FELT THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS AS IT WAS PURELY INTRA-PARTY BUSINESS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER INDEPENDENTS CONTESTING AGAINST BN CANDIDATES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT LATER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

THEY INCLUDE FORMER BERJAYA PARTY MEMBERS WHO RESIGNED FROM THE PARTY TO CONTEST AGAINST BN CANDIDATES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOWEVER CLARIFIED THAT ENCIK MARK KODING'S CASE WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE HE STOOD AS A BN CANDIDATE. -- BERNAMA 1557/SZ