

MAHATHIR-TIN # 'R' 'S'
BM

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 20 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA HAD ALSO AGREED TO SET UP A PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE COMMODITY.

"MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE AGREEMENT AND THE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY," HE TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER CHAIRING THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA FELT THAT THE ITA ON ITS OWN WAS NOT EFFECTIVE AND BECAUSE OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT FELT THE NEED TO HAVE A BACK-UP POSITION TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST WOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1742/LK

NO82: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S STAND HAD BEEN CONVEYED BY HIM IN A MEETING YESTERDAY WITH INDONESIA'S MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY PROF. SUBROTO AND THAI INDUSTRIES MINISTER TUN CHATCHAI CHOONHAVAN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THEY SUPPORTED MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE AGREEMENT AND ALSO THE SETTING UP OF THE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION.

"IN GENERAL, WE ACHIEVED UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER AND FURTHER DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK PAUL LEONG AFTER HE HAS COMPLETED DISCUSSIONS WITH THAI AND INDONESIAN LEADERS," HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1746/LK

MAHATHIR-TIN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

MEANWHILE, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK PAUL LEONG, WHO HAD ALMOST 12 HOURS INFORMAL TALKS WITH THE THAI AND INDONESIAN MINISTERS YESTERDAY AND TODAY, SAID THAT THE THREE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE MATTER ON TUESDAY AT 2 P.M. MALAYSIAN TIME.

DATUK LEONG WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER SENDING OFF PROF. SUBROTO THIS AFTERNOON.

HE SAID THEY HAD AGREED ON A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE THREE CAPITALS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TIN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN THE CAPITALS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND.

HE HOWEVER DECLINED TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. -- BERNAMA MORE 1759/LK

NO89: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK LEONG ADDED THAT HE HAD YET TO BRIEF THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE FULL DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND WOULD DO SO TOMORROW.

THE PROBLEM FACED BY TIN PRODUCERS WAS THAT THEY WERE BEING PRESSED INTO A CORNER BY CONSUMING COUNTRIES WHO HAD REFUSED TO AGREE TO THE SIXTH ITA.

THE TIN MARKET WAS ALSO REELING UNDER HEAVY SELLING BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER ITS STRATEGIC GENERAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (GSA) RELEASES AND PRICE CUTS WHEN THE COMMODITY WAS ALREADY FACING VERY POOR PRICES. -- BERNAMA 1802/LK