

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 15 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED YET ON THE FULL PARDON FOR FORMER SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GRANTING OF PARDON WAS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG AND +AS SUCH I CAN'T SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.+

+THERE IS NO QUESTION OF MY GOING TO ANNOUNCE IT AS IT AM NOT THE ONE GIVING THE PARDON,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE ONE-DAY MIC SYMPOSIUM ON NEW ATTITUDES FOR LEADERSHIP HERE.

NEWSPAPERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT DATUK HARUN, WHO IS ALSO AN UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT, WILL BE GIVEN THE PARDON TOGETHER WITH 1,500 OTHER PRISONERS IN A GENERAL AMNESTY ON NATIONAL DAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT TILL TODAY, HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER. --MORE 1425/AH

MAHATHIR - HARUN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DECLINED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THE CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER HAD BEEN ADVISED TO RESIGN SOON.

+I ONLY READ IT IN THE PAPERS...YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER AS YOU THINK AHEAD OF US.

+EVEN IF WE ARE TRYING TO THINK, THE NEWSPAPERS ARE ALREADY THINKING AHEAD OF US,+ HE JOKED.

DATUK MOKHTAR, 40 WAS LAST MONTH CHARGED WITH FOUR OTHERS WITH THE MURDER OF FORMER NEGERI SEMBILAN SPEAKER DATUK TAHA TALIB. HE IS NOW IN PUDU JAIL PENDING TRIAL ON OCT. 11.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT SHOULD HE RESIGN NOW, HIS FAMILY WILL BE ASSURED OF THE NORMAL PENSION AND GRATUITY. --BERNAMA 1439/AH