

MAHATHIR-BERJASA  
BM

83 (P)  
KOTA BAHARU, APRIL 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS AGREED TO DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD NASIR CONTINUING AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COUNCIL DESPITE HIS IMPENDING RETIREMENT FROM THE CABINET.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO DATUK HAJI MOHAMED NASIR'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE SERVING THE COUNCIL AFTER HIS RETIREMENT AS THE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS OPENING THE THIRD BERJASA CONVENTION HERE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 300 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS. THE CONVENTION WILL ELECT THE BERJASA LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEW TERM.

HOWEVER THE BERJASA SECRETARIAT HAS NOT ANNOUNCED WHETHER DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD NASIR WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THE PARTY. THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 9 P.M. TODAY TO DISCUSS HIS POSITION.

-- MORE 1905/LK

ZCZC N137: (F/S)

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ON BERJASA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WISHED TO SEE THE SITUATION IN BERJASA AS +COOL AND COMPOSED+ AS IN OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTNERS DESPITE SOME +PURGES+ CARRIED OUT.

HE WAS PROUD OF THE SOLIDARITY IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND HOPED IT WOULD BE PRESERVED.

ON LEADERSHIP, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE LEADERSHIP SUCCESSIONS IN BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES EFFECTED SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS.

THIS WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE LEADERS WERE SENSITIVE TO WHEN THEY SHOULD BOW OUT AND NOT HOLD ON TO THEIR POSITION.

ON DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD NASIR'S RETIREMENT FROM THE CABINET, HE SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE VOLUNTARILY AND ADDED THAT IT DEMONSTRATED THE SINCERITY AND MATURITY OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE BARISAN.

-- BERNAMA 1908/LK