

MAHATHIR-MUSA

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 21 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR DATUK MUSA HITAM AT THE OPENING OF THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY TO DISPEL RUMOURS THAT HE AND HIS DEPUTY NO LONGER GOT ALONG.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN SAYING THAT HE AND HIS NUMBER TWO IN THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DISAGREED ON MANY POINTS.

THEY WERE SAYING THAT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPPOSED HIS LOOK EAST POLICY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO ABSORB ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT SUCH TALK COULD ONLY SPOIL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE AND MUSA WERE ELECTED TO CARRY OUT DUTIES AND IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO THEY COULD BE OUSTED.

-- MORE 2305/PA

ZCZC N160 (F/S)

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+THAT IS WHY I HAVE TIME AND AGAIN SAID THAT I AM WILLING TO BE OUSTED IF I STRAY FROM THE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF UMNO.+

HE SAID HE WOULD HOLD FAST TO THE OBJECTIVES OF UMNO AND WOULD +FIGHT TO THE FINISH+ PEOPLE WHO USED SLANDER TO SPLIT THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE +TEAM+ HE WAS REFERRING TO, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS WAS THE CABINET, WHICH NEEDED TO COOPERATE.

THE +TEAM SPIRIT+ HE MENTIONED WAS IN REFERENCE TO THE ENTIRE CABINET AND NOT JUST TWO PERSONS, HE SAID.

--BERNAMA 2306/PA.