

MAHATHIR-UMNO

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY UMNO WILL NOT REALIGN THE HIERARCHY IN ITS LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL BY THE TIMBALAN YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE UMNO PRESIDENT WAS CLARIFYING A REPORT BY A LOCAL NEWSPAPER IMPLYING THAT THERE WOULD BE CHANGES IN THE UMNO HIERARCHY.

+IT IS A REPORT AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET IT FROM,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THAT UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE ELECTED BY THE PARTY'S ASSEMBLY AND ONLY THE ASSEMBLY WILL DETERMINE THE CHANGE AND FUNCTION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AT THE NEXT PARTY ELECTIONS.

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A SPLIT IN THE PARTY AS A RESULT OF THE ISSUE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO AS UMNO IS PERFECTLY HEALTHY AND ABLE TO MANAGE ITSELF.+

+I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM FOR UMNO,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 2130/ZI

ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ELEMENTS (PETUALANG) IN THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WHICH DISAGREED WITH THE BILL, HE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY AND INFACT ALL OF THEM UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED THEIR SUPPORT TO HIM IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF THERE EVIDENCE THAT THERE WERE UMNO MEMBERS WHO HAD CARRIED OUT UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITIES.

THE PARTY'S DISCIPLINARY BOARD WOULD DECIDE ON THE MATTER AND MEET AT A DATE TO BE DECIDED LATER.

ON FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SENU ABDUL RAHMAN'S POSITION IN THE PARTY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED TODAY BUT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE BOARD. -- BERNAMA 2135/ZI