

MAHATHIR-HARUN

84 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 1 (BERNAMA) --/DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK HARUN IDRIS HAS EXPRESSED HIS INTENTIN TO CONTEST FOR THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT POST IN THE PARTY ELECTIONS HERE ONMAY 25.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID DATUK HARUN MET HIM LAST FRIDAY AND TOLD HIM HE WANTED TO VIE FOR THE POST BECAUSE IT WOULD BE FOR THE GOOD OF UMNO.

+DATUK HARUN TOLD ME HE WANTS TO STAND FOR THE POST BECAUSE HE (DATUK HARUN) IS GOOD FOR UMNO+, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A NEWSPAPER REPORT SAYING DATUK HARUN WAS LIELY TO STAND AGAINST THE INCUMBENT, DATUK MUSA HITAM, FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY.

THE REPORT QUOTED SOURCES AS SAYING THAT DATUK HARUN TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER DURING THE MEETING THAT HE WAS +NOT OUT TO CHALLENGE DATUK MUSA BUT ONLY TO OFFER MYSELF AND LEAVE IT TO THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES TO DECIDE+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED AT THE MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND DATUK HARUN, APART FROM SAYING THAT DATUK HARUN HAD DECIDED TO CONTEST  
MAHATHIR-HARUN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+I HAVE NO OPINION ABOUT DATUK HARUN CONTESTING ... AS HE HAD TOLD ME HE WANTS TO STAND, THAT IS HIS BUSINESS+, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATEDLY SAID +NO COMMENT+ WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE AGREED WITH DATUK HARUN'S DECISION OR OFFERED ANY ADVICE TO DATUK HARUN NOT TO CONTEST FOR THE POST.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE DID NOT MEET FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANJAH RECENTLY ADVISING HIM AGAINST CONTESTING FOR THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT POST.

+THERE WAS NO SUCH MEETING. I DID NOT MEET TENGKU RAZALEIGH,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUERY WHETHER HE HAD ADVISED THE FINANCE MINISTER TO GO FOR A VICE-PRESIDENT POST.

IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT WITH DATUK HARUN TAKING ON DATUK MUSA, TENGKU RAZALEIGH, WHO HAD EARLIER BEEN TIPPED TO CHALLENGE DATUK MUSA, WILL LIKELY STAND FOR ONE OF THE THREE ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT POSTS INSTEAD.

TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS DEFEATED BY 205 VOTES WHEN HE CHALLENGED DATUK MUSA FOR THE POST IN 1981 AND WAS AS SUBSEQUENTLY APPOINTED UMNO TREASURER.

--BERNAMA 19127AM