MAHATHIR-HARUN

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KUALALUMPUR, HAY 12 (BERNAMA) --(DATUK SERI DR. HAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY RESERVED COHMENTS WHEN REFERRED TO THE REMARKS BY UMNO VICE PRESIDENT, DATUK HARUN IDRIS IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW WITH A FOREIGN MAGAZINE WHICH FAINTED THE PRIME MINISTER AS A "DICTATOR' '.

' 'HE (HARUN) IS ENTITLED TO HIS. OPINION,'' THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

IN THE MAGAZINE'S LATEST ISSUE., DATUK HARUN WAS REPORTED TO HAVE 'PAINTED DATUK SERI DR. HAHATHIR AS A'' DICTATOR'' FOR BULLDOZING MAJOR ISSUES WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING,'

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, DATUK HARUN HAD SAID HE WOULD CONTEST AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT BECAUSE OF HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK HUSA HITAM.

UMNO SECRETARY GENERAL, DATUK MUSTAFA JABBAR, WHO WAS PRESENT WITH DATUK SERI DR. HAHATHIR VEHEMENTLY DENIED DATUK HARUN'S CONTENTION9 SAVING, THAT ALL UMNO MEMBERS WERE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR- OPINION.

''HERE AT THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, WE ARE FREE TO' TALK. IF ANYONE SAYS ARE YESMEN, THAT IS DEFINITELY NOT TRUE.''

- - MORE 1755/WS

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MAHATHIR-HARUN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. HAHATHIR ALSO TICKED OFF REPORTERS FOR WRITING ''TOO, MUCH'' ON THE UMNO ELECTIONS-WHICH LED SOME, PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT THE NATION WAS FACING A GENERAL ELECTION AND NOT A PARTY, E L E C T J O N .

''IN FACT THERE WAS A REPORT IN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACT NOW BECAUSE THERE IS A GENERAL ELECTION IN MALAYSIA JUST LIKE, IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH Is ALSO FACING ELECTIONS." '

ON HIS RECENT STATEMENT WHICH SAID THAT MOST UMNO LEADERS WERE So OBSSEQSED IN LOBBYING FOR POSTS TO THE EXTENT OF NEGLECTING THEIR WORK, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID-THE SITUATION WAS NOT THAT BAD AS TO AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT HE FELT THAT IF ALL CABINET MINISTERS DEVOTED MORE TIME WORKING FOR THE GOYENMENT, THE NATION WOULD DEFINITELY BENEFIT MORE.

-- BERNAMA 1800/WS