

0455

UE252 AAE
MAHATHIP-DEBATE
BM

84

?

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 24 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO'S POLITICAL BUREAU WILL MEET THIS FRIDAY TO DISCUSS THE UMNO-PAS DEBATE WHICH WILL BE TELECAST LIVE BY TELEVISION MALAYSIA ON NOV. 11, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BUREAU, DID NOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO OTHER UMNO LEADERS SELECTED BY THE PARTY'S RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS BUREAU TO TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY THE POLITICAL BUREAU AT THE MEETING.

TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR AND UMNO RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS BUREAU CHAIRMAN DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD HAD EARLIER BEEN ANNOUNCED AS THE MAN WHO WILL HEAD THE UMNO TEAM AT THE DEBATE.

+I WANT TO HOLD THE MEETING NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS THE DEBATE BUT ALSO VARIOUS OTHER PROBLEMS THAT NEED LOOKING INTO,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD BERNAMA AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING AT HIS OFFICE.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE NAMES OF THE TWO PEOPLE NOMINATED TO REPRESENT UMNO AT THE DEBATE.

YESTERDAY? DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR SAID THE NAMES OF THE TWO OTHER UMNO CANDIDATES WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD *IN A DAY OR TWO+.

THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THE TWO OTHER UMNO REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE PARTY HAD OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO THE INFORMATION MINISTRY THE NAMES OF THE THREE UMNO PARTICIPANTS ON OCT. 31, THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NAMES.

+I WILL ANNOUNCE THE NAMES AFTER WE HAVE COME TO A DECISION,+ HE ADDED.

UMNO LEADERS SPECULATED TO BE SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE PARTY AT THE DEBATE ARE UMNO YOUTH LEADER ENCIK ANWARIBRAHIM AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DR. YUSOF NOOR.

ENCIK ANWAR, APPROACHED AFTER THE CABINET MEETING, SAID HE HAS PREPARED TO TAKE PART IF CHOSEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DECLINED TO COMMENT WHEN ASKED WHETHER PAS WAS BEING EVASIVE WHEN IT SAID THE DEBATE WAS TOO SHORT. ONE HOUR SET ASIDE FOR THE

PAS HAD SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME ALLOTTED FOR THE DEBATE, IT WOULD PRODUCE A BOOKLET TO PRESENT THE PARTY'S CASE REGARDING THE TOPIC FOR THE DEBATE +PAS ALLEGES THAT UMNO MEMBERS ARE INFIDELS AND ANYONE, WHO OPPOSES THEM WILL DIE A MARTYR.+ -- BERNAMA.

1628MST 24 10 84

0445

U B797 DEB