

U E596 AAE
MAHATHIR-MCA

-84 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 6 (BERNAMA) --- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HOPED THAT GOOD SENSE WILL PREVAIL AMONG THE TWO FACTIONS IN THE MCA FOR A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE PARTY CRISIS WHICH HAS DRAGGED ON FOR ALMOST A YEAR,

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE ON-GOING SQUABBLES BETWEEN THE NEO YEE PAN AND THE TAN KOON SWAN FACTIONS? THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED BOTH LEADERS WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO A COMPROMISE.

+ I AM ALWAYS HOPEFUL THAT GOOD SENSE WILL PREVAIL, + HE TOLD REPORTERS WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE FORESEES THE CRISIS ENDING BEFORE THIS YEAR IS OUT.

DATUKSERIDRMAHATHIR WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL REITERATED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE MCA AND AS SUCH HE DID NOT SIDE WITH ANY ONE NOR OFFER ANY ADVICE ON HOW TO SOLVE THE CRISIS

+ MY ONLY ADVICE TO ALL BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES IS THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS TIDY UP THEIR OWN HOUSEHOLD. IN SHORT, THEY SHOULD SETTLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. + --MORE

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MAHATHIR-MCA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

QUESTIONED WHY IT WAS THAT THE MCA DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE HEED^{ED} HIS STATEMENTS? HE REPLIED: + WELL, SOMETIMES PEOPLE TAKE A LONGER AND SOMETIMES A SHORTER TIME TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THEIR PROBLEMS. BUT EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL COME TO SOMETHING. +

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT BOTH DATUK DR NED AND ENCIK TAN ALWAYS MET HIM FOR TALKS AS WAS THE PREROGATIVE OF FRIENDS.

+ I DO NOT SIDE WITH ANYBODY. SO, IF I MEET DR NEO I SHOULD ALSO SEE ENCIK TAN. +

HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET FIXED A DATE FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING EXPECTED TO DISCUSS CURRENT PARTY ISSUES INCLUDING THE MCA CRISIS.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO ANYONE SPECULATING ON THE MATTER AND IN FACT, EVERYONE WAS FREE TO MAKE THEIR OWN PREDICTIONS.

+ YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU LIKE AND YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY GO ON CAMPAIGNING BECAUSE YOU WILL SOON GET TIRED, + HE ADDED TO THE LAUGHTER OF THE REPORTERS.