

B E802 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS

-ps (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 30 (BERNAMA) -- THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL NOT BE HELD EARLY AS HAS BEEN SPECULATED, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING TODAY DISCUSSED THE ELECTION BUT NO DATE HAD BEEN DECIDED.

+WE DID TOUCH ON THE ELECTION AT TODAY'S UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING BUT IT WILL NOT BE HELD THAT EARLY,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE FOUR-HOUR MEETING AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE.

HE BRUSHED OFF REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION, SAYING: +WE CAN HAVE ELECTIONS ANY TIME FROM NOW TO APRIL 1987 (WHEN THE PRESENT TERM OF PARLIAMENT EXPIRES).

+I HAVE NEVER TOLD YOU ALL LIES ... IN FACT I AM ALWAYS TELLING YOU THE TRUTH,+ HE SAID, TO THE AMUSEMENT OF THE REPORTERS. -- MORE

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B E803 AAE -
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON SPECULATIONS OF DATUK DR JAMES ONGKILI TO RESIGN AS MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE MINISTER TO CONTEST IN NEXT MONTH'S SABAH STATE ELECTIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE.

HE SAID DATUK DR ONGKILI WAS STILL A FEDERAL MINISTER AND HE (DATUK ONGKILI) HAD NOT TOLD HIM THAT HE INTENDED TO QUIT HIS POSTS.

+I DID NOT RECEIVE ANY LETTER FROM DATUK DR ONGKILI. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHAT IS THE REASON FOR HIM RESIGNING,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE MINISTER HAD TENDERED RESIGNATION TO CONTEST IN THE SABAH ELECTIONS. -- BERNAMA

2049MST 30 03 85