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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DISMISSED SPECULATIONS AND RUMOURS THAT THE AUG 17 BARISAN NASIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF THE MCA FROM THE 11-PARTY COALITION.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER AND BN CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SPECIFIC AGENDA ON THE MCA PROBLEM AND THAT THE MEETING WOULD HAVE AN OPEN AGENDA.

THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATIONS AND RUMOURS THAT THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER EXPELLING MCA WHEN IT MEETS HERE SATURDAY TO ENABLE THE PARTY TO RESOLVE ALL ITS PROBLEMS OUTSIDE THE COALITION.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE RUMOURS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT. WE ARE CALLING A BARISAN NASIONAL MEETING, THERE IS NO AGENDA ABOUT THAT (EXPELLING MCA).

+WE WILL TALK ON WHATEVER MATTERS THAT WILL BE BROUGHT UP AT THE MEETING,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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ASKED ABOUT THE MCA SITUATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS MCA BUSINESS AND +I WAS NOT INVOLVED.+

PRESSED FURTHER BY REPORTERS TO COMMENT ON THE RUMOURS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE RUMOURS. SOMEBODY TALKED ABOUT IT. I DID NOT START THE RUMOURS.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH'S (PBS) APPLICATION TO JOIN THE COALITION WOULD BE AMONG THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

PBS SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION SOON AFTER IT WAS ELECTED INTO POWER IN APRIL THIS YEAR TO TOPPLE THE PREVIOUS BERJAYA ADMINISTRATION AND FORM THE NEXT SABAH STATE GOVERNMENT. BERJAYA IS A MEMBER OF THE BN. --BERNAMA
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