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BN-INSIDE  
BY G.PALANIVEL

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 17 (BERNAMA) -- TODAY'S BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING IS A HISTORIC ONE IN THAT IT SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED A MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS.

ACCORDING TO A BN LEADER, PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING WAS AT ALL TIMES +FRANK, EXERCISING EXTREME RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING NATIONAL HARMONY.+

+HE PARTICULARLY WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ERODED BECAUSE OF A QUARREL AMONG DIFFERENT FACTIONS IN THE MCA -- THE BN'S SECOND LARGEST COMPONENT PARTY.+

EARLIER POLITICAL CIRCLES WERE SPECULATING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MCA OPTING OUT OF THE BN TEMPORARILY PENDING A SOLUTION TO ITS 18-MONTH-OLD CRISIS.

BERNAMA INTERVIEWED A VARIETY OF SOURCES TO DETERMINE WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING THOSE HISTORIC TWO HOURS. --MORE  
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HERE IS AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT WENT ON BEHIND THE FOUR WALLS OF THE BN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BN HEADQUARTERS IN JALAN TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN:

- + 10.14 AM -- BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS WITHOUT THE MCA.
- + DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BRIEFS THE MEETING ON THE MCA POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN SO FAR UNDERTAKEN TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS.
- + THE MEETING WAS TOLD THAT THE STABILITY OF THE MCA WAS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.
- + MEANWHILE WORD WAS SENT OUT TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE MCA WAS COMING FOR THE MEETING.--MORE  
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- + THE MEETING WAS INFORMED BY AN OFFICIAL THAT +THEY+ WERE COMING AND WERE AT THAT TIME HAVING A MEETING.
- + 10.40 A.M. -- DATUK DR NEO YEE PAN AND DATUK MAK HON KAM ENTER THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
- + THERE IS A HUSH AS NEO AND MAK TAKE THEIR SEATS.
- + PM TELLS THEM THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN ON FOR SOME TIME AND BRIEFS THEM ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED.
- + MAK TALKS FIRST. HE TELLS THE MEETING THAT IT WAS USUAL FOR A POLITICAL PARTY TO FACE PROBLEMS AND WAS SAD THAT THE MCA PROBLEM HAD DRAGGED ON FOR SOME TIME. --MORE  
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+ MAK INFORMS THE MEETING THAT HE WOULD NEED THREE MONTHS TO SETTLE THE CRISIS AND THAT HE WOULD TAKE CHARGE OF RESOLVING THE CRISIS AS THE ACTING PRESIDENT, AND WOULD SEEK THE COOPERATION OF ALL FACTIONS IN THIS ENDEAVOUR. IF THIS COULD NOT BE DONE WITHIN THAT PERIOD, THE MCA WOULD ON ITS OWN OPT OUT OF THE COALITION TEMPORARILY UNTIL THE CRISIS IS RESOLVED.

+ COMPONENT LEADERS QUESTION MAK ABOUT THIS UNDERTAKING.

+ NEO INSISTS THAT BOTH OF THEM SHOULD BE REFERRED TO AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MCA AT THE MEETING. MAK WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FINALLY AGREED THAT THEY BE REGARDED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MCA.

11 A.M. -- THE MCA REPRESENTATIVES LEAVE THE ROOM TO ALLOW THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FREELY. (SOME BN LEADERS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO DISCUSS ABOUT ANY OF THEM (NEO AND MAK) IN THEIR PRESENCE.)

+ BN COMPONENT PARTIES HAVE A FREE DISCUSSION.--MORE  
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+ A BN LEADER INFORMS THE MEETING THAT THE TAN KOON SWAN FACTION WOULD COOPERATE TO RESOLVE THE PARTY CRISIS WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

+ THE MCA REPRESENTATIVES RETURN AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

+ THE MCA WAS INFORMED THAT IT SHOULD RESOLVE THE CRISIS WITHIN THE THREE MONTHS IT HAD REQUESTED.--BERNAMA.

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