

R E082 AAE

MAHATHIR-UMNO R'R'R'R'R' (REPLACE PREVIOUS ITEM) (6)

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LABUAN, FEB 19 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO IS CONSIDERING SPREADING ITS WING TO LABUAN, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, AS YET NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, HE TOLD REPORTERS WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A NEWSPAPER REPORT AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE PARTY'S BRANCH IS BEING GIVEN A THOUGHT AS LABUAN WAS NOW A FEDERAL TERRITORY.

MEANWHILE, BASED ON SURVEY CARRIED BY BERNAMA THERE WAS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT UMNO WOULD SET UP A BRANCH HERE IN VIEW OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND WERE MALAYS. -- MORE.

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 LABUAN R'R'R'R'R'

A COMMUNITY LEADER, WHO REFUSED TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID 60 PER CENT OF THE MALAYS ON THE ISLAND WANTED UMNO TO SET UP ITS BRANCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHILE OTHERS, ALTHOUGH INTERESTED IN THE IDEA, FELT THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT.

THEY FELT THAT FOLLOWING THE SEPARATION OF LABUAN FROM SABAH, BERJAYA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THEIR INTEREST AS THEY HAD NO LONGER ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE IN THE SABAH STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

UNDER THE RESTRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, LABUAN WILL HAVE TWO PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES. -- BERNAMA.

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