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PAIRIN-MAHATHIR

85 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 1, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, HAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL DO ITS BEST TO HELP THE SABAH GOVERNMENT EASE THE TENSION IN THE STATE, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE AFTER A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS OFFICE HERE, DATUK PAIRIN SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ASKED HIM TO LOOK FOR +WAYS AND MEANS OF ENSURING STABILITY IN THE STATE.+

HE SAID THE MEETING HAD SOLVED +A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS OUTSTANDING IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.+

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE MEETING HAD MANAGED TO EASE THE SUSPICION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER THE NEW STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

DATUK PAIRIN SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ALSO ASKED HIM +NOT TO WORRY+ ABOUT THE PBS' APPLICATION TO JOIN THE BN AS THE APPLICATION WAS STILL OPEN. -- MORE

PAIRIN-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE CURRENT SPATE OF COURT ACTIONS SOUGHT BY POLITICAL PARTIES TO SOLVE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, DATUK PAIRIN SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD INDICATED HIS CONCERN OVER THE MATTER.

+HE HAS ASKED ME TO FIND THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITHOUT IN ANY WAY AFFECTING THE STABILITY OF SABAH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK PAIRIN DESCRIBED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME AS +FRANK AND OPEN+ IN WHICH HE (PAIRIN) HAD PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SABAH.

+THE PRIME MINISTER HAD LISTENED AND ACCEPTED THE REPORT THAT I SUBMITTED TO HIM,+ HE SAID.

DATUK PAIRIN WILL RETURN TO SABAH LATER TODAY AFTER BEING HERE FOR THREE DAYS TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS). -- BERNAMA

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