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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 18/ (BERNAMA) -- THE DATE OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE AS THE +TURN OF SOME POLITICAL EVENTS+ HAVE BEEN RATHER NEGATIVE; UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

CITING SABAH AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID: +WE ARE NOT EVEN SURE WHO IS THE CHIEF MINISTER AS THERE IS A WRANGLE GOING ON.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER A THREE-HOUR UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE THAT +THERE IS NO SUCH THING IN OTHER STATES, WHERE WE ARE VERY SURE WHO THE CHIEF MINISTER IS.+

+WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT...UNTIL THEN WE CANNOT CONSIDER (THE SITUATION IN SABAH) AS POSITIVE.+

THE MEETING, THE LAST TO BE HELD AT THE UMNO BUILDING IN JALAN TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN, DISCUSSED THE GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION WITHOUT ARRIVING AT ANY CONCLUSION..

+WE STUDIED THE EFFECTS OF ALL THESE TURN OF EVENTS ON THE POLITICAL CLIMATE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE MCA SITUATION, BEYOND SAYING THAT UMNO DID NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ITS BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTNERS.

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE MEETING SAW THE MENTERIS BESAR PLEDGING TO STEP UP COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE NEED TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING LAND FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT HOUSING PROJECTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT UMNO WOULD CELEBRATE ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR ON A GRAND SCALE IN JOHOR BAHRU.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE RE-ADMISSION OF HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN WAN IBRAHIM AS A MEMBER OF THE LIPIS DIVISION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$50,000 FROM JOHOR UMNO AS INITIAL PAYMENT OF THE LATTER'S PLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE \$100,000 ANNUALLY TOWARD THE COST OF THE PARTY'S NEW HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX. -- BERNAMA

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