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BN-GERAKAN

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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 5, (BERNAMA) -- THE GERAKAN WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND IT HAS NEVER THREATENED TO QUIT THE RULING 13-PARTY COALITION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

MISUNDERSTANDING BY CERTAIN QUARTERS INCLUDING THE PRESS HAD CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GERAKAN HAD ISSUED THE SO-CALLED THREAT TO LEAVE THE BN, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND BN CHAIRMAN WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

HE SAID PRESS STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS QUARTERS HAD CREATED A PICTURE OF A SPLIT IN THE BN AND THAT GERAKAN HAD THREATENED TO CONTEST UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+ACTUALLY, THIS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS PRESS STATEMENTS, INCLUDING THE ONE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY ME (IN ALOR SETAR),+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE
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BN-GERAKAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO KEDAH LAST WEEK, HE WAS REPORTED BY TWO NEWSPAPERS AS HAVING SAID THAT +BN IS PREPARED TO SEE GERAKAN CONTEST UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION+.

+IF GERAKAN WANTS TO CONTEST UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL, LET IT GO ALONE AND WE WILL SEE,+ HE WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID.

+LET GERAKAN LEAVE THE BN AND CONTEST ON ITS OWN,+ THE PRIME MINISTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID.

THE NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD ASKED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE ALLEGED THREAT BY GERAKAN TO CONTEST UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL IF ITS REQUEST FOR A FAIR ALLOCATION OF SEATS WAS REJECTED, AND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PARTY LEAVING THE BN.

+WHAT THEY CLAIM TO BE MY STATEMENT IS NOT ACTUALLY WHAT I TOLD THE NEWSPAPERS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE
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BN-GERAKAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HIS REPLY WAS NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS IT WAS MADE IN A LIGHT VEIN IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AN UMNO MEMBER AT A BREAK-THE-FAST AND NUZUL QURAN CEREMONY AT THE SI-PUTEH MOSQUE, Jitra, ON MAY 30.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT HIS REPLY WAS PUBLISHED AS A PRESS STATEMENT.

HE ALSO SAID THAT SEVERAL QUARTERS ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE STATEMENTS MADE BY GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK DR LIM KENG YAIK.

+HE (DATUK DR LIM) WAS MERELY GIVING HIS VIEWS AND THIS DID NOT REPRESENT A THREAT TO LEAVE THE BN,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE MET THE GERAKAN PRESIDENT THIS AFTERNOON AND WAS GIVEN AN EXPLANATION OF THE STATEMENTS THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS.

+I AM SATISFIED WITH HIS EXPLANATION AND BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION ON THE PART OF GERAKAN TO LEAVE THE BN,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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BN-GERAKAN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE HAVE ALL AGREED THAT ANY PROBLEMS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES OR WITH THE BN WILL BE SETTLED WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL, INCLUDING WITH MYSELF AS BN CHAIRMAN.+

+IF NECESSARY, WE WILL HOLD A MEETING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL TO DISCUSS ANY PROBLEM, INCLUDING THAT RELATED TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY'S MEETING AGREED THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOW +CLEAR+ AND THERE WERE NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG COMPONENT PARTIES.

+WE ARE OF ONE HEART IN FACING ANY EVENTUALITY IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SPHERE,+ HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER BN COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTEST UNDER THEIR OWN SYMBOLS IF THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ALL COMPONENT PARTIES HAD AGREED TO ACT IN ONE DIRECTION AND CONTEST THE NEXT ELECTION USING THE BN SYMBOL, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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