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MAHATHIR-ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 12th (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CHAIRED A MEETING OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL AT SRI PERDANA HERE. (P)

EMERGING FROM THE THREE-HOUR MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT DECLINED TO SAY WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD.

ON WHETHER THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS CONDUSIVE FOR THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD, HE SAID ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS HAD BEEN RESOLVED OF LATE, THERE WERE OTHERS TO BE TACKLED.

ASKED IF THE OTHER PROBLEMS COULD BE WORKED OUT BY NEXT MONTH, THE PRIME MINISTER LAUGHED BEFORE REPLYING: +IF I CAN ANSWER THAT, I WILL BE THE HAPPIEST MAN AROUND+.

SPECULATIONS HAD BEEN RIFE THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD IN JULY.

+AT THIS JUNCTURE, I CANNOT SAY WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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ON THE BARISAN NASIONAL ASPECT, HE SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL EXAMINED THE LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT AMICABLE SOLUTIONS HAD BEEN FOUND TO THE SABAH POLITICAL ISSUE AS WELL AS THE CUEPACS' WAGE CLAIM DISPUTE.

ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM.

+BUT I BELIEVE THE PARTIES WILL ADOPT A GIVE AND TAKE ATTITUDE AND BE PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THE SUBJECT WAS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED DURING THE SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING.

ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE SIGNS OF RECOVERY BUT ADDED UNLESS THERE WAS A DRAMATIC RISE IN PRICES OF COMMODITIES, MALAYSIA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT NEXT YEAR WAS EXPECTED TO BE +LARGE+.

+WE ARE KEEN TO SEE MORE PEOPLE EMPLOYED,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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