

D243

B E453 AAE
CABINET-MAHATHIR 2 2 2
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 11, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID~~ TODAY THE NEW CABINET'S TOP PRIORITY WILL BE TO REVITALISE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

HE SAID THE TWO MAIN AREAS TO BE GIVEN EMPHASIS WERE UNEMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT.

HE SAID COMMODITY PRICES WERE BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL AND EXPECTED THEM TO REMAIN AT LOW LEVELS SO LONG AS THERE WERE QUARTERS MANIPULATING PRICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO LOOK TO OTHER AREAS TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ANNOUNCING HIS CABINET LINEUP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE EXPENDITURE WAS TO PRIVATISE SEVERAL OF ITS AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE TELECOMS DEPARTMENT. -- MORE

1643MST 11 08 86

D250

B E458 AAE
CABINET-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WORKERS THROUGH RETRENCHMENT.

+WE WILL NOT DISMISS ANYONE. WE WILL JUST NOT RECRUIT WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MAJOR CHANGES TO EXISTING POLICIES.

HE SAID THE PRESENT POLICIES WOULD BE CONTINUED AS THEY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE, ADDING THAT THIS WAS ONE REASON THE PEOPLE HAD GIVEN THE BARISAN NASIONAL A FRESH MANDATE TO RULE.

HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO AMEND THE POLICIES JUST BECAUSE MORE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION HAD BEEN ELECTED IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE

1653MST 11 08 86

D259

B E460 AAE
CABINET-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS WERE MADE ON THE BASIS THAT THEY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE, THEIR EXPERIENCE, POLITICAL CAPABILITY AS WELL AS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

HE SAID HE HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS DEPUTY AND THE LEADERS OF THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES BEFORE DECIDING ON THE LINEUP.

THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE SELECTED WERE SUITABLE AND CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THEIR TASKS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO +FORMULA+ AS SUCH IN CHOOSING THE CABINET MEMBERS, RATHER THE SELECTION WAS BASED MORE ON +TRADITION+.

+WE ARE CONSERVATIVE PEOPLE. WE DON'T BELIEVE IN RADICALISM AND DO NOT MAKE CHANGES BY RADICAL MEANS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1707MST 11 08 86

D263

B E462 AAE
CABINET-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

TO A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIAN CABINETS HAD ALWAYS BEEN DYNAMIC, BUT CERTAIN SELF-MOTIVATED GROUPS HAD TRIED TO PAINT A DIFFERENT PICTURE.

HE SAID UMNO WAS ALLOTTED 14 POSTS OF MINISTER, 14 OF DEPUTY MINISTER AND FIVE OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY.

THE MCA WAS GIVEN THREE POSTS OF MINISTER, SIX DEPUTY MINISTER AND ONE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MIC ONE POST OF MINISTER AND TWO DEPUTY MINISTER, GERAKAN ONE POST OF MINISTER, ONE DEPUTY MINISTER AND ONE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, PBB ONE MINISTER AND TWO DEPUTY MINISTER, SUPP ONE MINISTER AND TWO PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, PBDS ONE MINISTER, SNAP ONE DEPUTY MINISTER AND PBS ONE MINISTER AND ONE DEPUTY MINISTER.

HE SAID A POST FOR USNO WAS STILL BEING DISCUSSED.

ASKED WHY THE MCA WAS GIVEN ONE POST LESS THAN THE LAST TIME AND WHETHER THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE COURT CASE AGAINST PARTY PRESIDENT TAN KOON SWAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DECLINED TO COMMENT BUT SAID +THE PRESS CAN SPECULATE+. -- MORE
1715MST 11 08 86

D264

B E463 AAE
CABINET-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

TO ANOTHER QUESTION WHY ENCIK GHAFAR WAS GIVEN THREE POSTS, HE SAID: +PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HAS LOTS OF ENERGY.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DATUK RAIS YATIM'S APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT MEAN ANY SWITCH IN MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY.

HE SAID PARLIAMENT COULD SIT ANY TIME BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER, ALTHOUGH A SPECIAL SESSION MIGHT BE CALLED TO SWEAR IN THE NEW MPS.

HE SAID THE NEW CABINET'S FIRST MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON THURSDAY. -- BERNAMA
1716MST 11 08 86