

D354

B E079 AAE
MAHATHIR-RAZALEIGH

SUBANG, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WAS NOT AWARE OF LETTERS PURPORTEDLY SENT BY DATUK MUSA HITAM TO HIM ON TWO OCCASIONS BEFORE THE LATTER TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION LAST MONTH.

+I AM NOT AWARE OF THE LETTERS. IT IS JUST SPECULATION,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE AEROSPACE COMPANY, AIROD SDN BHD, HERE. HE WAS COMMENTING ON A JAKARTA NEWS REPORT QUOTING SOURCES THAT DATUK MUSA, PRIOR TO TENDERING HIS RESIGNATION, HAD EARLIER SENT TWO LETTERS SEPARATELY TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE LETTERS CONVEYED DATUK MUSA'S +FEELINGS+ ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF (TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER) TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH TO THE CABINET.

DATUK MUSA LEFT FOR JEDDAH ON FEB 26 AND HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE CABINET AND AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 16 WAS DELIVERED BY AN AIDE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THE NEXT DAY. -- MORE
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B E080 AAE
MAHATHIR-RAZALEIGH 2 SUBANG

THE REPORT SAID THE FIRST OF DATUK MUSA'S TWO EARLIER LETTERS TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SENT SHORTLY BEFORE THE 1984 CABINET RESHUFFLE.

THE SECOND, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WAS AFTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS RETAINED IN THE CABINET.

ON THE REASONS FOR DATUK MUSA'S RESIGNATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +THE REASON IS I DON'T KNOW.+

HE ALSO SAID HE ONLY READ NEWSPAPERS FOR THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MISSION OF THE FOUR MENTERIS BESAR TO LONDON TO COAX DATUK MUSA TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION.

+I READ THE NEWSPAPERS EVERYDAY, IN SOME CASES YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I DO,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL HAD NO PLANS TO MEET ON SUNDAY, THE DAY DATUK MUSA'S RESIGNATION TAKES EFFECT. -- BERNAMA
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