

0574

B E205 AAE

UMNO-MUSA

BM

86
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 23 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY REJECTED THE REASONS GIVEN BY DATUK MUSA HITAM FOR WANTING TO RESIGN FROM THE CABINET AND AS DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT.

PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DID NOT SAY WHY THE COUNCIL REJECTED THE REASONS.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A SIX-HOUR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HERE THAT IT HOWEVER ACCEPTED DATUK MUSA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT. -- MORE
1836MST 23 03 86

U E212 AAE

UMNO-MUSA 2 KUALA LUMPUR 'R' 'R'

DATUK MUSA TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE CABINET AND AS DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT ON FEB 27. ALTHOUGH HIS RESIGNATION LETTER WAS ONLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS, COPIES OF IT WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED AND SOLD TO THE PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

DATUK MUSA CITED FIVE MAIN REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION:

+ DATUK MUSA COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE WITH HIS PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES, WHICH HE SAID WERE BASED ON COMPLETE TRUST, COMMITMENT AND FREE WILL. HE FELT THAT HIS COMMITMENT HAD BEEN ERODED AS HE WAS NO LONGER TRUSTED AND AS SUCH COULD NOT SERVE WITH ALL HIS HEART,

+ UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MOTIVE OF HIS ACTIONS WOULD BE CALLED INTO QUESTION AND HE MIGHT BE ACCUSED OF ACTING OUT OF HIS OWN POLITICAL INTEREST,

+ DATUK MUSA BELIEVED THAT STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS REGARDING +CERTAIN PEOPLE+ ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT AND TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT AND TARNISH THE GOOD NAME OF THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO HIM, AND THIS UPSET HIM GREATLY,

+ AS LONG AS HE REMAINED IN HIS POSTS THESE ACCUSATIVE ACTIVITIES WOULD CONTINUE AND THIS PLACED HIM IN A QUANDARY -- IF HE CONTINUED TO WORK HARD IT WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED, AND EVEN MORE SO IF HE DID NOT, AND

+ HE BELIEVED HIS RESIGNING WOULD ALLOW DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR IN WHOM HE (DR MAHATHIR) HAD FULL CONFIDENCE, AS WELL AS TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY. -- MORE

1901MST 23 03 86

D594

B E215 AAE
UMNO-MUSA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE COUNCIL MEETING BEGAN AT ABOUT 9 AM AND ADJOURNED FOR A 45-MINUTE LUNCH BREAK AFTER WHICH IT CONTINUED FOR TWO MORE HOURS.

APART FROM DATUK MUSA, WHO IS STILL OVERSEAS, OTHERS WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING WERE FINANCE MINISTER AND PARTY TREASURER ENCIK DAIM ZAINUDDIN, WHO IS ATTENDING THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING IN AMMAN, AND INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM, WHO IS IN LONDON ATTENDING A DADAH CONFERENCE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID, ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM, DATUK ABDULLAH BADAWI AND DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BEGAN THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY SAYING THE MEETING DISCUSSED DATUK MUSA'S RESIGNATION AND DECIDED TO ACCEPT DATUK MUSA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT BUT REJECTED THE REASONS CITED BY DATUKMUSA IN THE RESIGNATION LETTER.

ASKED BY REPORTERS ON WHY THE COUNCIL REJECTED DATUK MUSA'S REASONS, HE REPLIED: +IT WAS THE VIEW OF THE COUNCIL AFTER CAREFUL STUDY.+ -- MORE
1907MST 23 03 86

B E217 AAE
UMNO-MUSA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED WHETHER THE COUNCIL REJECTED THE REASONS BECAUSE IT BELIEVED THERE WERE OTHER REASONS WHICH LED DATUK MUSA TO RESIGN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNCIL COULD NOT ACCEPT WHAT WAS ALLEGED BY DATUK MUSA IN HIS LETTER.

QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS WHETHER THE REJECTION OF THE REASONS COULD BE INTERPRETED THAT DATUK MUSA'S CLAIMS WERE NOT TRUE, HE SAID: +THAT ARE YOUR WORDS.+

HE STRESSED THAT ONLY THE COUNCIL HAD THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ON THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE RESIGNATION LETTER.

+WE HAVE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND WE ARE BOUND BY IT,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE COUNCIL WOULD OFFICIALLY INFORM OR SEND A DELEGATION TO SEE DATUK MUSA TO EXPLAIN THE DECISION TAKEN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING BECAUSE, HE SAID, DATUK MUSA WOULD GET TO KNOW ABOUT IT, POSSIBLY THROUGH THE PRESS. -- MORE
1918MST 23 03 86

B E220 AAE
UMNO-MUSA 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL DELEGATION TO MEET AGAIN WITH DATUK MUSA AS THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE MEETING DATUK MUSA WHEN HE ATTENDED FUTURE MEETINGS.

ON WHETHER THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED WHO WOULD SUCCEED DATUK MUSA AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, HE SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED AT THE MEETING AS IT WAS NOT FOR THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE ON THE APPOINTMENT.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- BERNAMA
1930MST 23 03 86