

0866

B E663 AAE

MUSA WITHDRAW * * *

BM

SUBANG, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK MUSA HITAM HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE IS WITHDRAWING HIS RESIGNATION AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT. HIS STATEMENT ON THIS WAS READ OUT BY UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, HEAD OF THE FOUR-MAN MISSION TO MEET DATUK MUSA IN LONDON, ON HIS RETURN HERE.

DATUK MUSA, IN HIS STATEMENT, URGED ALL UMNO MEMBERS SYMPATHETIC OR NOT SYMPATHETIC TO HIM TO CEASE CRITICISING EACH OTHER AND SET ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER PLANNED TO OVERTHROW PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.~~

IN FACT, HE SAID, +MY RECORD CAN PROVE THAT I HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO TRY TO ENSURE HIS EFFECTIVENESS AND LEADERSHIP.+ -- MORE
2125MST 14 03 86

0888

B E669 AAE

MUSA-WITHDRAW 2 SUBANG R R R

DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR, WHO IS TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR, RETURNED TOGETHER WITH JOHOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK AJIB AHMAD AND PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI MOHAMED NAJIB TUN RAZAK.

HE SPOKE TO REPORTERS FOR 15 MINUTES BEFORE LEAVING FOR IPOH TO HAND OVER A LETTER CONTAINING DATUK MUSA'S STATEMENT TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS CURRENTLY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERAK.

DATUK MUSA SAID HE HAD NEVER +MERAJUK+ (BEEN SULKY) OVER HIS RESIGNATION AND THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HIM TO BE +DIPUJUK+ (CAJOLED).

HE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM BOTH THE CABINET AND PARTY POSTS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS +PERSONAL+ AS THE MATTER INVOLVED THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO SAID THAT ON THE QUESTION OF LOYALTY AND TRUST, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HE SHARED THE SAME VIEW.

DATUK MUSA SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEEPLY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED. -- MORE
2203MST 14 03 86

0900

U E674 AAE

MUSA-WITHDRAW 3 SUBANG R R R

DATUK MUSA SAID THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE FREE TO SET UP HIS CABINET TEAM WITH PERSONS IN WHOM HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE, +ESPECIALLY HIS NUMBER TWO+.

+THE REASON I TENDERED MY RESIGNATION IS TO GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, BASED ON THIS PRINCIPLE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK MUSA AGREED THAT WHILE HE WAS IN THE GOVERNMENT, THERE WERE POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH HE DISAGREED TO.

BUT, HE ADDED, THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM BECAUSE HE READILY ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

DATUK MUSA SAID THAT HE WANTED HIS RESIGNATION TO BE EFFECTIVE MARCH 16 TO GIVE TIME, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS SHORT, TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO CHOOSE HIS SUCCESSOR. -- MORE
2225MST 14 03 86

D922

U E685 AAE
MUSA-WITHDRAW 4 SUBANG R R R

+I HAVE NO OTHER INTENTION. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME OR NOT I CANNOT AVOID FACING BECAUSE I WAS TOLD ABOUT MY POSITION ONLY AT THAT TIME.+

DATUK MUSA SAID THAT IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE TWO DELEGATIONS WHICH CAME TO SEE HIM IN LONDON, ONE FROM THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL AND THE OTHER FROM THE JOHOR UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE, THEY CONVEYED TO HIM THE APPEALS BY UMNO MEMBERS ASKING HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE CABINET AND AS DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT.

+I WAS TOLD THAT UMNO IS IN TURMOIL AND THE PARTY IS BEING THREATENED,+ DATUK MUSA SAID.

DATUK MUSA SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO ADVISED TO AT LEAST WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT IN THE INTEREST OF PARTY UNITY.

HE SAID THAT THIS ADVICE HE ACCEPTED AS SINCERE AND HE ALSO SINCERELY, AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, DECIDED TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT. -- MORE
2301MST 14 03 86

D926

U E686 AAE
MUSA-WITHDRAW 5 SUBANG R R R

DATUK MUSA URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO +CLOSE RANKS TO FACE CURRENT CHALLENGES ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+I MYSELF WILL ALSO TRY TO DO THIS AS FAR AS I CAN, GOD WILLING,+ HE SAID.

DATUK MUSA THANKED THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL AND THE JOHOR UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE PARTICULARLY FOR THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO MEET HIM AND FOR THEIR PATIENCE IN DISCUSSING WITH HIM.

HE ALSO THANKED ALL UMNO MEMBERS WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE CABINET AND AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT. -- MORE
2307MST 14 03 86

D938

U E688 AAE
MUSA-WITHDRAWAL 6 SUBANG R R R

DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR SAID WHILE DATUK MUSA HAD AGREED TO STAY ON AS DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT BUT REAFFIRMED HIS RESIGNATIONS AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HOME MINISTER.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ON PARTY UNITY.

HE ADDED THAT DATUK MUSA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT ATTEND THE COMING SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, HE WOULD BE BACK +AS SOON AS POSSIBLE+ IN TIME FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

THE MENTERI BESAR SAID THE DELEGATION MET DATUK MUSA TWICE -- ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

HE SAID THEY HAD +FRANK AND OPEN+ DISCUSSIONS, WITH PARTY UNITY AND STABILITY BEING THE MAIN TOPICS AT THE FIRST MEETING WHICH LASTED MORE THAN THREE HOURS. -- MORE
2329MST 14 03 86

D939

U E689 AAE
MUSA-WITHDRAWAL 7 SUBANG R R R

DATUK MUSA THEN ASKED FOR TWO DAYS TO THINK OVER, AND AT THE SECOND MEETING, DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR SAID, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS BETTER.

DATUK MUSA TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT, REALISING THE RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST UMNO MEMBERS HAD PLACED IN HIM, HE WOULD WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

+HE ASSURED UMNO THAT HE WILL WORK FULL TIME TO ENSURE PARTY UNITY AND HOPED THAT ALL UMNO MEMBERS WILL COOPERATE,+ DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR SAID.

DATUK MUSA ALSO GAVE A LETTER FOR DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN WHICH HE EXPLAINED HIS REASONS FOR WITHDRAWING HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE PARTY POST AND ALSO TOUCHED ON ISSUES WHICH HE HAD STATED IN HIS RESIGNATION LETTER.

DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR SAID THE PRESS STATEMENT BY DATUK MUSA THAT HE (DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR) HAD READ OUT (TO REPORTERS), WAS TO EXPLAIN DATUK MUSA'S STAND ON HIS RESIGNATION FROM HIS CABINET POSTS AND THE REASONS WHY HE AGREED TO RETURN AS PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

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2331MST 14 03 86

D931

U E690 AAE
MUSA-WITHDRAWAL 8 SUBANG R R R

MEANWHILE, DATUK AJIB SAID THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH A TASK BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND +WE ARE SATISFIED WITH WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED.+

ABOUT 100 UMNO MEMBERS WERE AT THE AIRPORT TO GREET THE DELEGATION AND THEY APPLAUDED WHEN DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR ANNOUNCED DATUK MUSA'S DECISION. -- BERNAMA
2316MST 14 03 86