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MAHATHIR-FORMULA

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- TODAY'S SCHEDULED SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE THREE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN SABAH TO FORM A COALITION TO RESOLVE THE STATE'S POLITICAL CRISIS HAS BEEN CALLED OFF.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID: +THE SIGNING WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF (ALL) THE THREE PARTIES DO NOT COME TOGETHER.+

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A POLICE DAY PARADE AT THE POLICE TRAINING CENTRE (PULAPOL) HERE.

PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) HAS YET GIVE ITS DECISION ON THE PACKAGE DEAL UNDER THE FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS IN SABAH.

BERJAYA AND USNO HAVE AGREED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AT A CEREMONY SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE TODAY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BARISAN NASIONAL SECRETARY-GENERAL GHAFAR BABA AND UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE THREE PARTIES INVOLVED HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD HIM THEY AGREED TO THE FORMULA. +NOW, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SO. I DO NOT KNOW.+ -- MORE
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ASKED WHEN HE WOULD EXPECT TO MEET PBS PRESIDENT AND SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN, HE SAID: +I DO NOT KNOW YET. IT IS UP TO THEM (PBS).+

PBS HELD ITS SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING IN KOTA KINABALU YESTERDAY BUT REACHED NO DECISION AFTER DISCUSSING THE FORMULA. THE CHIEF MINISTER'S LIAISON OFFICER CYRIL YANSALANG TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY THE MEETING WOULD RESUME TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE PBS HAD NOT MADE ITS FINAL DECISION ON THE MATTER.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD COME UP WITH A NEW FORMULA SHOULD PBS REJECT THE ONE HE HAD PROPOSED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED: +NO COMMENT.+ -- BERNAMA
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