

D247

B E437 AAE  
LEAD MAHATHIR-PBS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) PLACED TOO MUCH PRIORITY ON SELF-INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN SABAH.

THE PBS COUNTERPROPOSALS TO THE FORMULA TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM WAS +LOPSIDED BECAUSE THEY OVER-STRESSED THE PBS INTEREST+, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD PUT FORWARD THE FORMULA DURING HIS VISIT TO SABAH LAST MONTH.

IN THE INITIAL STAGE THE PBS, USNO AND BERJAYA HAD AGREED TO THE FORMULA WHICH COULD SET THE STAGE FOR THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN SABAH.

HOWEVER, THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE FORMULA, WHICH WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON MARCH 29, HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE THE PBS CHANGED ITS STAND.

ACCORDING TO PBS PRESIDENT AND SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN, THE FORMULA DID NOT TOUCH AT ALL ON A COALITION GOVERNMENT BUT ON COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE PARTIES. -- MORE  
1814MST 06 04 86

D259

B E450 AAE  
LEAD MAHATHIR-PBS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PBS WANTED TWO-THIRDS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO COME FROM THE PARTY.

+THIS MEANS THAT THE PBS CAN MAKE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION WITHOUT AGREEMENT FROM THE OTHER PARTIES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE PRACTICE OF THE BN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES MAKING UP THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES, NO ONE COMMUNITY HAD THE POWER TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION ON ITS OWN.

IF A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR POLITICAL PARTY WANTED TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION IT HAD TO GET THE AGREEMENT OF THE OTHERS BECAUSE IT DID NOT HAVE TWO-THIRD REPRESENTATION, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE BN AND UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL FELT THE PBS REQUEST TO BE +UNHEALTHY+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STILL FELT THAT +THE FORMULA IS THE BEST WAY+ TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS IN SABAH BUT ADDED THAT THE BN WAS OPEN-MINDED ABOUT +ANY MATTERS WHICH DO NOT TOUCH TOO MUCH ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FORMULA+.

+WE WANT TO SEE A SOLUTION TO THE SABAH PROBLEM. WE WILL TRY OUR LEVEL BEST,+ HE SAID. -- MORE (HERE PICK UP SUBSEQUENT TAKES OF EARLIER SERIES.)

1834MST 06 04 86

D184

B E403 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PBS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SITUATION IN SABAH WAS +VERY FLUID+ AND THIS MADE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM DIFFICULT. +IF WE MAKE A DECISION (AT THE MEETING) TODAY, PROBABLY WHEN THE TIME COMES (FOR THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING) ON APRIL 9 THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE CHANGED+, HE ADDED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, UMNO AT TODAY'S MEETING HAD GIVEN FULL POWER TO ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE BN AND ALSO THE UMNO POLITICAL BUREAU TO MAKE A DECISION BASED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT, AT THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING.

THE APPLICATIONS OF USNO, PBS, PASOK AND THE SABAH CHINESE PARTY TO JOIN THE BN WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BN WOULD DISCUSS THE APPLICATIONS AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY. -- MORE  
1623MST 06 04 86

D191

B E407 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PBS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED WHETHER A DATE HAD BEEN FIXED FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID: +WE DID NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER.+

BESIDES CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE FOUR-HOUR MEETING WHICH STARTED AT 9AM ALSO DISCUSSED MATTERS RELATED TO THE ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENTS IN MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN. -- BERNAMA  
1632MST 06 04 86