

D337

B E274 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 86

(4)
KUCHING, APRIL 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIANS ARE NOW READY AND KEEN FOR AN ELECTION.

HE HOWEVER DECLINED TO SAY WHEN HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF THE COUNTRY'S NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH SHOULD BE HELD BY NEXT APRIL

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SARAWAK, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DATE DID NOT REALLY MATTER.

HE SAID HIS VISIT HERE WAS PART OF HIS NATIONWIDE TOUR TO ASSESS THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION. HE IS DUE TO COMPLETE THE TOUR WITH A VISIT TO LABUAN NEXT WEEK.

+AFTER MY VISIT HERE, I WILL SAY I NOW KNOW BETTER THE SITUATION ALTHOUGH IT NEED NOT NECESSARILY MEAN IT IS EASIER FOR ME TO FIX THE DATE,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHEN HE WOULD ACTUALLY ANNOUNCE THE DATE, THE PRIME MINISTER SIDE-STEPPED THE QUESTION AND ONLY SAID +THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION+. -- MORE
2008MST 11 04 86

D341

B E275 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 2 KUCHING

+THE ONLY THING I AM SURE ABOUT THE ELECTION IS THAT IT WILL BE HELD BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 1987,+ HE SAID. THE TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ENDS IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PREPARATIONS BY ALL COMPONENT PARTIES.

+AS FAR AS THE DATE IS CONCERNED, THAT DOES NOT REALLY MATTER BECAUSE THE PARTIES ARE GOING TO BE READY WHENEVER THE ELECTION IS HELD,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE AND THE MASS MEDIA HAD WORKED OUT THEIR OWN +PREDICTION+ THAT THE ELECTION MUST BE CARRIED OUT DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND NOT DURING THE FASTING MONTH (EXPECTED TO START ON MAY 10).

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION FOR SABAH AND SARAWAK AND THE OTHER STATES. -- MORE
2016MST 11 04 86

D343

B E276 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 3 KUCHING

+THIS IS BECAUSE SARAWAK HAD ITS STATE ELECTION ONLY ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO AND IF WE WERE TO HOLD IT AGAIN NOW (FOR THE STATE), IT WILL BE A WASTE OF MONEY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID +WE WILL HAVE ONE WHEN WE HAVE ONE, THERE'S NO HURRY.+ DATUK MUSA HITAM HAD LAST MONTH RESIGNED FROM THE POST.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH IT WAS AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT, IT WAS NOT +A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.+

ASKED WHETHER BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS WOULD GO TO SABAH TO CAMPAIGN FOR BERJAYA, ITS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE THERE, BEFORE THE MAY 5 AND 6 STATE ELECTIONS POLLING DATES, HE SAID THEY WOULD BE KEEPING A WATCH AND IF THERE WAS A NEED, THEY WOULD GO. -- MORE
2019MST 11 04 86

D345

B E277 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 4 KUCHING

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTED FUNDS EQUALLY TO ALL STATES AND THERE WAS NO +FAVOURITISM.+

+WE DO SO ACCORDING TO OUR CAPABILITY,+ HE SAID.

ON SARAWAK, HE SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS BEING RUN EFFECTIVELY AND THERE WAS NO MAJOR PROBLEM OR ANY SIGN OF A CRISIS IN THE STATE.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE STATE COULD BE CONTINUOUSLY IMPLEMENTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

ON THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE PEOPLE TO COME UP WITH COUNTER MEASURES.

+THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOR US TO START BLAMING OTHERS FOR THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT TO BID FAREWELL TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WERE CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD AND DATIN PATINGGI HAJAH LAILA AND OTHER STATE DIGNITARIES. -- BERNAMA

2023MST 11 04 86