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B E104 AAE
MAHATHIR-MUSA

86 (V)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 16, (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS WILLING TO MEET HIS DEPUTY, DATUK MUSA HITAM, ANYTIME TO DISCUSS PARTY MATTERS.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR DATUK MUSA TO +APPLY AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT+ TO SEE HIM.

+AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I AM WILLING TO MEET HIM ANYTIME,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS PRIME MINISTER, TOLD REPORTERS AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, SERI PERDANA, AFTER HOSTING A TEA PARTY FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN SELECTED FOR A BARISAN NASIONAL YOUTH ADOPTION SCHEME.

DATUK MUSA HAD EARLIER THIS WEEK TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM DATUK DR SERI MAHATHIR ON HOW HE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARTY IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK MUSA SAID HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMING HIM THAT HE WAS BACK IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
2040MST 16 04 86

D382

B E105 AAE
MAHATHIR-MUSA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE SABAH ELECTIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID THE BN WOULD CAMPAIGN FOR ITS COMPONENT PARTY, BERJAYA, BUT ADDED THAT THE BN HAD YET TO APPOINT A TEAM FOR THE PURPOSE.

EARLIER, HE DESCRIBED THE ADOPTION SCHEME AS A POSITIVE MOVE TOWARDS UPGRADING RACIAL UNITY.

HE SAID SUCH A PROJECT WOULD PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ALL RACES AND CLOSER TIES AMONG THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOOK TO TASK THOSE WHO MADE CRITICISMS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY BUT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO HELP

HE SAID THEY WERE GOOD AT MAKING SUGGESTIONS BUT LEFT THE WORK TO OTHERS. -- MORE
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D397

B E110 AAE
MAHATHIR-MUSA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE COMMENDED THE BN YOUTH FOR ITS INITIATIVE IN HAVING THE ADOPTION SCHEME, SAYING IT HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF NURTURING NATIONAL UNITY RIGHT FROM THE SCHOOLS.

HE SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM HAMPERING UPGRADING OF UNITY AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN WAS THE LACK OF EFFORTS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING IN THE SCHOOLS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL, THE STUDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO LEAD RELATIVELY ISOLATED LIVES WITHOUT MUCH IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO FRATERNISATION, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THEY HAD DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO THE REALITIES OF A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY WHEN THEY ENTERED THE WORKING WORLD.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S MULTIRACIAL CHARACTER SHOULD NOT BE TURNED INTO A PROBLEM BY THE PEOPLE BUT THEY SHOULD STRIVE TO DRAW STRENGTH FROM IT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HOPED THE ADOPTION SCHEME WOULD BE EXTENDED TO SABAH AND SARAWAK.

NINETY SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WERE SELECTED BY THE YOUTH WINGS OF UMNO, MCA AND MIC FOR THE SCHEME. EACH RECEIVED \$100, SCHOOL UNIFORMS, SHOES, A BAG AND BOOKS. -- BERNAMA
2106MST 16 04 86