

D210

B E428 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION R'R'R'

LABUAN, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS STILL KEEPING MUM ABOUT THE DATE OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BUT INDICATED TODAY THAT IT WILL NOT BE SO SOON.

+I DON'T DECIDE ALONE, I HAVE TO CONSULT OTHER PEOPLE. IT WILL TAKE TIME,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS WHETHER HE HAD ALREADY DECIDED ON THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION AFTER HIS NATIONWIDE TOUR.

+WE ARE IN NO HURRY,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT HERE.

LABUAN WAS THE LAST LEG OF HIS NATIONWIDE TOUR TO MEET THE RAKYAT AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS.

THE PRESS HAD BEEN SPECULATING THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY, BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE FASTING MONTH; AND THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD BE DISSOLVED EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT SESSION.

SPECULATIONS GREW AFTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD AN AUDIENCE OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG AT ISTANA SERENE IN JOHOR BAHRU YESTERDAY. -- MORE
1847MST 18 04 86

D222

B E433 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 2 LABUAN R R R

ASKED WHEN PARLIAMENT WOULD BE DISSOLVED, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE +WHEN WE WANT TO HOLD THE ELECTION.+ TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE TIME WAS NOW CONDUCTIVE FOR AN ELECTION; HE SAID THAT MATTERS THAT NEEDED TO BE CLEARED HAD BEEN +LARGELY CLEARED.+

HE SAID THE PRESS HAD BEEN SPECULATING AND +CALCULATING+ THE POSSIBLE DATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH HE FELT WAS +ALL RIGHT+.

THE PRESS, HE ADDED, HAD +CALCULATED+ THAT THE ELECTION WOULD NOT BE HELD DURING THE FASTING MONTH, RAINY SEASON OR HARI RAYA PERIOD.

ON RUMOURS THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL MIGHT DECIDE TO HOLD THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FIRST AND DEFER THE STATE ELECTIONS TO A LATER DATE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.+

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1907MST 18 04 86

D236

B E442 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 3 LABUAN R R R

ON SPECULATION THAT CAMPAIGNING WOULD BE LIMITED TO TWO WEEKS, HE SAID THAT SIMILARLY THIS WAS POSSIBLE. IT WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE ELECTION TO BE HELD DURING THE FASTING MONTH.

+THIS SORT OF SPECULATIONS ARE ALL RIGHT, AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOT ABOUT THE STOCK MARKET. I THINK IT IS ALL RIGHT FOR EVERYBODY TO SPECULATE.+

TO A QUESTION WHEN HE BELIEVED THE SPECULATIONS WOULD END, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WHEN WE DECLARE THE DATE OF THE ELECTION.+

ON HIS AUDIENCE OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS AN ORDINARY ONE AS HE HAD NOT HAD AN AUDIENCE OF HIS MAJESTY FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND THERE WERE MANY ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS WHICH NEEDED TO BE REPORTED.

HE ALSO DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HE HAD BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT DURING THE AUDIENCE, SAYING THAT HE LEFT IT TO THE PRESS TO SPECULATE. -- MORE

1933MST 18 04 86

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B E444 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS 4 LABUAN R R R

ASKED WHEN HE WOULD BE MEETING THE VARIOUS BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES REGARDING THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD ONLY DO SO WHEN HE FELT HE WAS READY TO MEET THEM.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE OF THE BN BEING VICTORIOUS IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

ON THE CANDIDACY OF THE NEW LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD ONLY BE PROPER THAT THE CANDIDATE BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE LOCAL LEADERS.

ON THE MAY 5 AND 6 SABAH STATE ELECTION, HE DECLINED TO BE DRAWN INTO MAKING A SPECULATION ABOUT THE RESULTS, SAYING +WE'LL WAIT AND SEE+.

HE ALSO SAID HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF BERJAYA CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE ELECTION, ADDING THAT THE PARTY WAS CONTESTING UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL.

BERJAYA IS THE SOLE BN COMPONENT PARTY IN SABAH. -- MORE
1948MST 18 04 86

B E447 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 5 LABUAN

ON THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POST, VACATED BY DATUK MUSA HITAM ON MARCH 16, HE SAID HE WOULD FILL IT WHEN HE WAS READY TO DO SO. --
BERNAMA

1954MST 18 04 86