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MUSA-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM TODAY THANKED PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD FOR HIS STATEMENT THAT HE (DATUK MUSA) HAD NO NEED TO MAKE ANY APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH SEGAMAT UMNO DIVISION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT HIS RESIDENCE HERE, HE SAID THAT, HOWEVER, HE STILL HAD TO LOOK FOR A SUITABLE TIME TO MEET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE AT PRESENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TODAY IN LABUAN.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE WOULD TRY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIDES. -- MORE
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ASKED ABOUT THE MEETING, HE SAID IT WOULD JUST BE AN ORDINARY ONE BETWEEN A PARTY PRESIDENT AND HIS DEPUTY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT HIS PRESENT FUNCTION AS PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT, HE SAID THAT THIS WAS BASED ON THE PARTY CONSTITUTION WHICH STIPULATED THAT IT WAS HIS TASK TO ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES.

ON RUMOURS THAT HE WOULD CHALLENGE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR THE PRESIDENCY AT THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR, HE SAID IT WAS STILL A LONG WAY OFF TO DECIDE ON THIS, ADDING THAT FOCUS SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN TO THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DECISION WHETHER HE WOULD CONTEST IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION DEPENDED ON THE PARTY.

HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL AS HAD BEEN PLEDGED TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BEFORE THE +PROBLEM+ CROPPED UP A MONTH OR SO AGO. -- MORE
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COMMENTING ON THE CALL BY UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID YESTERDAY TO PARTY MEMBERS TO OPPOSE OPPORTUNISTS IN THE PARTY, DATUK MUSA SAID HE AGREED WITH THE STATEMENT AND CONSIDERED IT TIMELY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE PROBLEM NOW WAS TO IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNISTS.

+SOME PEOPLE SAY I AM NOT AN OPPORTUNIST BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO SAY THAT I AM, SO TOGETHER AND WITH PATIENCE LET US FIND OUT WHO THE REAL OPPORTUNISTS ARE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SEGAMAT UMNO DIVISION'S MEETING TODAY, HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE DIVISION HAD IMPLEMENTED DIRECTIVES FROM THE HEADQUARTERS AND THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO FACE THE ELECTION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED THE PARTY'S DIRECTOR OF ELECTION FOR THE SEGAMAT PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY. -- BERNAMA
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