

D391

U E929 AAE
MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 21, ⁸⁶ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY AGAIN DECLINED TO BE DRAWN INTO SAYING WHEN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE.

+EVERYBODY CAN SPECULATE ON THE ELECTION DATE. WE CANNOT STOP SPECULATIONS AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THAT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN APPROACHED BY REPORTERS AFTER OPENING A SEMINAR ON PRIMARY COMMODITIES HERE.

ON A REPORT QUOTING UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER ABDUL RAHIM BAKAR AS SAYING THAT HE WAS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT BY TOMORROW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ENCIK RAHIM WAS FREE TO MAKE HIS COMMENTS.

ENCIK ABDUL RAHIM, THE DEPUTY ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS MINISTER, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ON SATURDAY THAT, HOWEVER, IF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DID NOT ANNOUNCE THE DISSOLUTION BY TOMORROW, THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD SERVE THE FULL TERM AND HOLD THE GENERAL ELECTION NEXT YEAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE BN TEAM TO BE SENT TO SABAH TO HELP BERJAYA IN ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

-- MORE

1203MST 21 04 86

D392

U E930 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE TEAM, ENCIK GHAFAR BABA (BN SECRETARY-GENERAL) MIGHT KNOW ABOUT IT,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, IN OPENING THE SEMINAR, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT EVERYONE MUST MAKE SOME SACRIFICE IN FACING THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN.

ASKED IF HE HAD SAID THIS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE SEEKING A SALARY ADJUSTMENT, HE SAID IT WAS NOT.

+EVERYBODY MUST LEARN TO SACRIFICE, TO WORK HARD, PRODUCE MORE AND DEMAND LESS,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1208MST 21 04 86