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MAHATHIR-SABAH

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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 23, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER AND BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE 423,097 VOTERS IN SABAH TO VOTE WISELY IN THE MAY 5 AND 6 STATE ELECTIONS POLLING.

+BY VOTING WISELY, OF COURSE I MEAN VOTE FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL,+ HE SAID TO REPORTERS HERE AFTER A TWO-HOUR PREVIEW OF THE ASEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK AND CANADIAN SCIENCE CIRCUS AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE.

ASKED ABOUT BN CHANCES IN THE ELECTIONS, HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED BN COULD WIN THE ELECTION AS +WE IN BN ARE ALWAYS HOPEFUL.+

HE ALSO SAID THE COALITION HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO SEND A TEAM TO ASSIST BERJAYA, THE BN'S SOLE COMPONENT PARTY IN SABAH, IN THE CAMPAIGNING.

BERJAYA IS CONTESTING IN 38 OF THE 48 SEATS UNDER ITS OWN SYMBOL AND NOT THE +DACING+ (SCALES), WHICH IS THE BN SYMBOL. -- MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO DENIED THAT THE DECISION OF USNO PRESIDENT TUN DATU MUSTAPHA DATU HARUN NOT TO CONTEST IN THE CURRENT SABAH ELECTIONS WAS PART OF THE SABAH FORMULA TO RESOLVE THE STATE'S RECENT POLITICAL CRISIS

+WHETHER OR NOT HE TAKES PART IS HIS BUSINESS AND IT IS UP TO HIM TO DECIDE FOR HIMSELF,+ HE ADDED.

TUN DATU MUSTAPHA WAS ELECTED TO THE USUKAN SEAT IN THE APRIL 1985 STATE ELECTIONS. HE IS SAID TO BE IN AUSTRALIA AT PRESENT.

THE BN-SPONSORED SABAH FORMULA, WHICH ENVISAGED A COALITION AMONG THE RULING PBS GOVERNMENT, USNO AND BERJAYA, WAS REJECTED BY PBS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CONFIRMED HIS 30-MINUTE MEETING WITH UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM IN HIS OFFICE ON MONDAY. -- MORE

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ASKED WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED AT THE MEETING, HE SAID +IT WAS A NORMAL MEETING+ AND REFUSED TO ELABORATE.

THIS IS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING AFTER DATUK MUSA RESIGNED AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER ON MARCH 16. -- BERNAMA

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