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MAHATHIR-SEATS

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 14 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER AND BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TODAY REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE FAIR ALLOCATION OF SEATS AMONG THE 13 MEMBER PARTIES OF THE COALITION FOR THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.

HE FELT HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL THE COMPONENT PARTIES TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION (ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS).

+IF ALL COMPONENT PARTIES ARE SATISFIED, THEN WE ARE ALL ANGELS,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE ONE-DAY NATIONAL LANGUAGE CONVENTION AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA HERE.

HE BELIEVED THAT COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD BE DISSATISFIED, BUT STRESSED THAT THE ESSENCE OF SHARING MEANT EVERYBODY HAD TO MAKE SACRIFICES.

ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA'S STATEMENT THAT BN WOULD USE THE PREVIOUS FORMULA IN ALLOCATING SEATS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ENCIK GHAFAR. ENCIK GHAFAR IS BN SECRETARY-GENERAL.

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MAHATHIR-SEATS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE UMNO POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING AT SRI PERDANA TONIGHT, HE REFUSED TO SAY OUTRIGHT THAT IT WOULD BE DISCUSSING AND DETERMINING THE DATE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID INSTEAD THAT UMNO HAD ALWAYS DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE DATES OF THE ELECTION WHICH MIGHT BE HELD THIS YEAR OR NEXT. TONIGHT'S MEETING WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, WHERE THE DATE AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED, HE ADDED.

ON REPORTS OF PAS TRYING TO GET GERAKAN MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE NEWLY-FORMED OPPOSITION FRONT, THE HARAKAH KEADILAN RAKYAT (PEOPLE'S JUSTICE MOVEMENT OR HAK), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT COULD TRY BUT WAS SURE THE PARTY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO +FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME.+

ASKED HIS ADVICE FOR BN COMPONENT PARTIES, HE SAID HE FORESAW NO PROBLEMS AMONG BN MEMBERS AS THEY KNEW AND HAD COOPERATED WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR SO LONG. -- BERNAMA

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