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MAHATHIR-CONFIDENT  
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MELAKA, JULY 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP IN MELAKA IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF OPPOSITION LEADER LIM KIT SIANG WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO CONTEST HERE (KOTA MELAKA), HE WOULD GET A SOUND THRASHING.

+BUT I HEAR ENCIK LIM WILL RUN TO PULAU PINANG BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS NOT PROVIDED SERVICE AND HAS ALREADY LOST THE STATE SEAT (BANDAR HILIR),+ HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SAID ENCIK LIM SHOULD WIN BECAUSE HE WAS OPPOSITION LEADER, SUCH A ROLE WAS USELESS IF IT WAS ONLY TO TALK IN PARLIAMENT.

+WHEN THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO HIS ARGUMENTS, HE IS NOT IN THE HOUSE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON SPECULATIONS THAT PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU WOULD CHANGE HIS MIND AND CONTEST IN THE ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DECISION BECAUSE DR LIM HAD TRULY SERVED THE PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS WAS AN INTERNAL GERAKAN MATTER AND THE DECISION WAS UP TO THE PARTY.

ON THE POST OF THE PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER, HE SAID THE MATTER WOULD BE DETERMINED AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION. DR LIM HAD ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO STEP DOWN FROM THE POST AND WITHDRAW FROM POLITICS BECAUSE OF HEALTH REASONS.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT ALLOCATION OF SEATS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID IT WOULD BE FINALISED WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS ANNOUNCED.

BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION, IT WAS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO SATISFY ALL THE COMPONENT PARTIES INCLUDING UMNO, HE ADDED.

ON THE BN MANIFESTO, HE SAID IT WOULD BE UNVEILED ONCE IT WAS READY. -- BERNAMA

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