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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE PARTI HIZBUL MUSLIMIN (HAMIM) HAS BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AS THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S LATEST MEMBER. BN CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE SAID THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AT TODAY'S BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE.

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHAT 'ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE' MEANT, HE SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL MATTERS THAT HAD TO BE FIRST DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED WITH HAMIM.

HE SAID HAMIM WOULD CONTEST UNDER THE BN BANNER IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION AND THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE ALLOCATED TO IT WAS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED.

BN CURRENTLY HAS 13 MEMBER PARTIES, NOT COUNTING HAMIM. THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL HAD BEFORE THIS ADMITTED THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) AND RE-ADMITTED USNO AS BN MEMBERS. BOTH ARE SABAH-BASED PARTIES. MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT BERJAYA, ANOTHER SABAH PARTY, WAS STILL A BN MEMBER DESPITE REPORTS ABOUT THE PARTY THREATENING TO PULL OUT IF IT FAILED TO GET THE NUMBER OF SEATS IT WANTED.

HE SAID ALL COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD USE THE DACING (SCALES) SYMBOL IN THE GENERAL ELECTION, FOR WHICH NOMINATION IS ON JULY AND POLLING ON AUG 2 AND 3.

ON THE RECENTLY FORMED OPPOSITION FRONT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD BECOME THE 'GRAVE' OF PAS, WHICH LEADS THE FRONT. BERNAMA

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