

U E031 AAE

MAHATHIR-HAJI

BM

86 (2)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED INTENDING PILGRIMS TO PERFORM THEIR HAJ WITH
FULL HUMILITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PILGRIMS WHO DID NOT HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON AUG 2 AND 3 COULD DO
SO IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

GENERAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS IN THE COUNTRY
AND THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION WAS NOT THE ONLY GENERAL ELECTION.
HE SAID WHEN COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT A BIG NUMBER OF INTENDING
PILGRIMS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.

THE FIRST HAJ FLIGHT LEFT FOR SAUDI ARABIA EARLY THIS MONTH
WHILE THE LAST FLIGHT IS SCHEDULED FOR AUG 9.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT ALL THE
INTENDING PILGRIMS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE THERE WERE 11
FLIGHTS BETWEEN AUG 3 AND 9. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-HAJI 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF THERE WERE AMONG THE
INTENDING PILGRIMS WHOSE FLIGHT TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS SCHEDULED BEFORE
AUG 3 AND WHO WERE EAGER TO VOTE, THEY COULD POSTPONE THEIR
DEPARTURE.

IF THERE WERE AMONG THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY IN THE HOLY LAND AND
WANTED TO VOTE, THEY COULD RETURN HOME AND GO AGAIN TO PERFORM THEIR
HAJ AFTER VOTING, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH COULD
SPONSOR THEIR TRIPS.

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE PRAYED THAT INTENDING
PILGRIMS WOULD CONTINUE PERFORMING THEIR HAJ AND NOT BE INFLUENCED
BY +WHATEVER POLITICAL PRESSURE+ FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS.

MEANWHILE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PILGRIMS MANAGEMENT AND
FUND BOARD (TABUNG HAJI), DATUK HAJI HANAFIAH AHMAD, SAID IT WAS NOT
POSSIBLE FOR TABUNG HAJI TO RESCHEDULE THE HAJ FLIGHTS TO ACCOMMODATE
THOSE WHO WANTED TO DELAY THEIR FLIGHTS TO VOTE ON AUG 2 AND 3. --
MORE

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MAHATHIR-HAJI 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT 11 FLIGHTS CARRYING SOME 4,000 INTENDING PILGRIMS
WOULD LEAVE FOR THE HOLY LAND FROM AUG 3 TO 9.

DATUK HAJI HANAFIAH ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO APPLICATION SO
FAR FROM AMONG THE INTENDING PILGRIMS TO WITHDRAW FROM GOING TO
MECCA. -- BERNAMA

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