

B ED44 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES

BN

86
KUALA LUMPUR: JULY 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

JOHANNAD TODAY CONFIRMED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES TO THE CABINET AND STATE GOVERNMENTS IF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IS RETURNED TO POWER IN THE GENERAL ELECTION EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SEVERAL LEADERS AT FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS SHIFTING FROM PARLIAMENTARY TO STATE CONSTITUENCIES AND VICE VERSA AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHERS NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT SEVERAL MENTERIS BESAR WERE LIKELY TO CONTEST PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, WITH THEIR PREVIOUS SEATS TO BE CONTESTED BY FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE LEADERS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE BUT REPORTS TODAY SAID THE MENTERIS BESAR OF JOHOR, PAHANG, TERENGGANU AND KELANTAN HAD BEEN TIPPED TO EITHER CONTEST PARLIAMENTARY SEATS OR RETIRE.

THE REPORTS ALSO SAID THE MENTERIS BESAR INVOLVED WERE LIKELY TO BE SUCCEEDED BY DEPUTY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER AND MP FOR PASOH MUHYIDDIN YASSIN (JOHOR); MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND MP FOR MARAN DATUK KHALIL YAACOB (PAHANG); DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR (TERENGGANU) AND FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD (KELANTAN). -- MORE
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HE SAID IT WAS NORMAL FOR THE BN TO +RESHUFFLE+ THE LEADERSHIP IF IT FELT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DO SO.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT THE BN HAD IRONED OUT MATTERS RELATED TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS EXCEPT FOR +ONE OR TWO ITEMS WHICH WE EXPECT TO SORT OUT BY TODAY,+.

HE SAID THE LIST OF UMNO CANDIDATES WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY THE STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ON WEDNESDAY -- A DAY BEFORE NOMINATION DAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE BN MANIFESTO WOULD BE OFFICIALLY UNVEILED ON THE SAME DAY.

HE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED THE BN'S CONFIDENCE OF WINNING A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY AND EVEN INCREASING ITS NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE COMING ELECTION. -- MORE
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HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD FILE HIS NOMINATION PAPERS AT THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICE THIS THURSDAY.

ON REPORTS THAT KUBANG PASU PAS YOUTH DIVISION VICE-CHAIRMAN DR AZIZAN ISMAIL HAD BEEN TIPPED TO CHALLENGE HIM, HE SAID THE PERSON SELECTED BY PAS TO FIGHT HIM SHOULD HAVE THE CALIBRE TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER.

+I'M QUITE SURE THEY HAVE SOMEBODY WHO WANT TO BE PM SINCE THEY HAVE THE AMBITION TO RULE THIS COUNTRY.

+I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR PM. WE'LL SEE WHO THEY WILL FIELD AGAINST ME-- HE SAID.

+IF I WIN, HOPEFULLY MY PARTY WILL STILL WANT ME TO BECOME PM. FOR THIS MAN (PAS CANDIDATE) MUST BE OF MY STATURE, SOMEBODY PAS HAS IN MIND TO BECOME PM IN THEIR SO-CALLED ISLAMIC STATE+ HE ADDED. --
BERNAMA

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