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MAHATHIR-DAP
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 21 (BERNAMA) -- ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~ TODAY HIT OUT AT THE DAP FOR TRYING TO STOP THE HOLDING OF THE GENERAL ELECTION ON AUG 2 AND 3 AND DESCRIBED IT AS A +COWARDLY+ MOVE BY THE OPPOSITION PARTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE DAP'S MOVE WAS +STRANGE+ BECAUSE THE PARTY, HE ADDED, HAD ALL ALONG BEEN IMPATIENT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATES OF THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON COMMODITIES HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE BELIEVED THE DAP TOOK SUCH AN ACTION BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO FACE THE PEOPLE.

+IF THE DAP IS NOT READY FOR THE ELECTION, THEN IT SHOULD NOT THROW THE SPANNER (IN THE WORKS),- HE SAID.

+THE PEOPLE WANT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-DAP 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN AMPLE TIME TO ALL QUARTERS TO FACE THE ELECTION.

+NOW THE DAP IS TRYING TO SAY THAT WHATEVER THAT HAD BEEN DONE IS WRONG,+ THE PRIME MINISTER.

THE DAP TODAY FILED AN APPLICATION AT THE HIGH COURT HERE FOR AN INJUNCTION TO STOP THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FROM BEING HELD ON THURSDAY AND THE GENERAL ELECTION ON AUG 2 AND 3.

IN FILING THE APPLICATION, DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM KIT SIANG CLAIMED THAT THE ACTION OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION IN FIXING THE DATES FOR THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION WAS ILLEGAL AND IMPROPER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +IF THE DAP IS AFRAID TO CONTEST IN THE POLLS, THEN IT SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE.+

ON THE DECISION BY BERJAYA TO PULL OUT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID IT WAS THE PARTY'S RIGHT. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-DAP 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED WHETHER BERJAYA'S MOVE WOULD AFFECT THE BN'S PERFORMANCE IN THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO.

BERJAYA JOINED THE COALITION IN 1976. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BN WAS MADE AFTER THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING IN KOTA KINABALU YESTERDAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ONE SEAT ALLOCATED TO BERJAYA FOR THE ELECTION WOULD NOW BE GIVEN TO EITHER USNO OR PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) -- THE REMAINING TWO BN PARTNERS IN SABAH.

DISCUSSIONS ON THIS WERE STILL UNDERWAY, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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