

B E396 AAE  
MAHATHIR-MAGAZINES  
BN

ALOR SETAR, JULY 23 (BERNAMA) -- ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~  
TODAY REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO BE WARY OF CERTAIN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS  
AND MAGAZINES WHICH HE SAID ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE OPPOSITION TO  
TOPPLE THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE GROUPS USED VARIOUS TACTICS SUCH  
AS PUBLISHING ARTICLES WHICH CRITICISED AND PUT THE BN IN A BAD  
LIGHT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DENY THE RULING COALITION A TWO-THIRDS  
MAJORITY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

SPEAKING TO BN MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS  
HERE, HE SAID MOST OF THESE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WERE OWNED BY  
JEWS AND ZIONISTS WHO WERE KNOWN TO DISLIKE THE BN AND WANTED THE BN  
TO FALL.

HE ALSO SAID A CERTAIN ISLAMIC-BASED PARTY WAS AMONG OPPOSITION  
PARTIES WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE MALICIOUS EFFORTS OF THE JEWS  
AND ZIONISTS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MAGAZINES 2 ALOR SETAR

THE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO FILE HIS  
NOMINATION PAPERS FOR DEFENDING THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT  
AT THE JITRA DISTRICT OFFICE TOMORROW.

HE SAID ANY DENIAL BY PAS OF ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH EFFORTS BY  
THE JEWS AND ZIONISTS WOULD NOT BENEFIT THE MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, CITED AS AN EXAMPLE  
A NEWSPAPER WHICH PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT  
HIS DAUGHTER'S WEDDING RECENTLY WAS A WASTE OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS NORMAL FOR MALAYSIANS TO INVITE AS MANY  
FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING AND  
THAT ALL HE DID WAS TO INVITE MANY GUESTS, INCLUDING BN COMPONENT  
PARTY MEMBERS.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THE BN WAS NOT AFRAID OF FACING THE  
OPPOSITION IN THE COMING ELECTION, ADDING THAT THE BN HAD IN THE  
PAST PROVEN ITS CAPABILITY IN RUNNING THE COUNTRY FAIRLY REGARDLESS  
OF RACE AND RELIGION. -- MORE

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B E611 AAE  
MAHATHIR-MAGAZINES 3 ALOR SETAR

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE RECENTLY-FORMED OPPOSITION FRONT AND THE  
CHINESE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (CCC) WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH  
THE BN BECAUSE THEY WERE SET UP FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND NOT FOR  
THE PEOPLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE OPPOSITION FRONT AS +TOOTHLESS+  
WHILE THE BN HAD +STRONG WHITE SPARKLING TEETH+.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE OPPOSITION FRONT WOULD EVENTUALLY  
BREAK UP, SAYING EVEN NOW ITS MEMBER PARTIES WERE FIGHTING EACH  
OTHER FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL INTERESTS.

ON THE DAP, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TALK OF IT FORMING A PACT  
WITH PAS WAS NOTHING NEW AS BOTH PARTIES HAD FORMED SIMILAR PACTS IN  
PAST ELECTIONS.

+IN THE PAST, THEY ONLY DARED TO DO SO SECRETLY BUT NOW THEY ARE  
BOLD ENOUGH TO SAY IT OUT OPENLY,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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**B E612 AAE**  
**MAHATHIR-MAGAZINES 4 ALOR SETAR**

ON ISSUES THAT MIGHT BE RAISED BY THE OPPOSITION, HE SAID:  
+THEIR ISSUES WILL ONLY BE LIKE EMPTY BARRELS+.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD RAISE ISSUES ON THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, THE DECLINE IN PRIMARY COMMODITY PRICES AND UNEMPLOYMENT, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE GATHERING WERE MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OTHMAN AROFF, WHO WILL BE DEFENDING THE JITRA STATE SEAT, AND BN CANDIDATES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE SEATS IN KEDAH. -- BERNAMA

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