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B E604 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES
BM

ALOR SETAR, JULY 23 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TONIGHT THE LIST OF BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES FOR KEDAH WHICH INCLUDES SEVEN NEW FACES.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, WILL DEFEND THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY WHICH HE FIRST WON IN THE 1974 GENERAL ELECTION.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION IN THE JERLUN-LANGKAWI PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AND FINANCE MINISTER DAIM ZAINUDDIN IN MERBOK.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK OO GIN SUN WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION IN ALOR SETAR AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABDUL KADIR SHEIKH PADZIR IN KULIM BANDAR BARU.

THE SEVEN NEW FACES ARE: DATUK DR AFFIFUDDIN OMAR (PADANG TERAP), DR ABDUL HADI DERANI (KOTA SETAR), HAJI GHAZALI AHMAD (JERAI), DATUK HAJI ZAINAL ABIDIN JOHARI (SIK), RAJA ARIFIN RAJA SULAIMAN (BALING), HAJI ABDUL MANAF AHMAD (SUNGAI PETANI) AND ENCIK CHEW KAM HOOI (PADANG SERAI) -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 2 ALOR SETAR

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MALAYSIA (FKIM) CHAIRMAN DATUK HAJI ABU BAKAR RAUTIN WILL DEFEND THE KUALA KEDAH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AND ENCIK OTHMAN ABDUL THE PENDANG SEAT.

THE SIK AND BALING CANDIDATES WERE FORMERLY MEMBERS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THE LIST OF CANDIDATES AT THE STATE UMNO HEADQUARTERS AT BANGUNAN TUNKU HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFRONTED BY CERTAIN QUARTERS LOBBYING FOR INCLUSION AS BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM AIRPORT IN KEPALA BATAS AND ALSO AT BANGUNAN UMNO.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED AT LENGTH HOW THE SEATS WERE ALLOCATED AMONG BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES AND HOW CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED. -- MORE
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B E617 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 3 ALOR SETAR

HE SAID THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND SELECTION OF CANDIDATES WAS DONE IN A SPIRIT OF GIVE-AND-TAKE.

HE SAID THE BN COMPRISED 13 PARTIES AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ALLOCATE SEATS TO THEM AND THIS HAD CAUSED DISSATISFACTION AMONG CERTAIN COMPONENT PARTIES BUT IT COULD NOT BE AVOIDED.

DURING THE TIME OF THE ALLIANCE WHICH COMPRISED ONLY UMNO, THE MCA AND THE MIC THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES WAS NOT SO DIFFICULT, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT BERJAYA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD NOT HAMPER THE COALITION IN PERFORMING WELL, PARTICULARLY IN SABAH. -- MORE
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B E624 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 4 ALOR SETAR

ON BERJASA'S DECISION NOT TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE MET ITS PRESIDENT, WAN HASHIM WAN AHMAD, WHO HAD ASSURED HIM THAT BERJASA WOULD SUPPORT THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND ITS CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE AND COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTIES HAD ENSURED POLITICAL STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE NATION.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE PARTICULARLY BN SUPPORTERS THAT THE QUESTION OF CANDIDATES WAS NOT IMPORTANT BUT WHAT WAS VITAL WAS A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT TO ENSURE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY.

IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT STRONG, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TAKE STEPS TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE ARISING FROM ECONOMIC RECESSION, HE SAID.

HE SAID IF THE BARISAN NASIONAL WON WITH A NARROW MAJORITY OR HAD THE SAME STRENGTH AS THE OPPOSITION THERE WOULD BE ATTEMPTS BY OPPOSITION PARTIES TO BUY OVER CANDIDATES SO AS TO SET UP THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE
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B E625 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 5 ALOR SETAR

THIS WOULD GIVE RISE TO ANOTHER PARTY TRYING TO SECURE AN OVERALL MAJORITY AND THIS SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE TO REPEAT ITSELF RESULTING IN PARTIES CONCENTRATING ON POLITICS AND FORGETTING THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD GIVE THEIR SOLID SUPPORT TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION SO THAT URGENT MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION. -- BERNAMA
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