

0198

U E778 ENG COR SIN  
MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE

ARAU, AUG 1, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER /DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL BE RETURNED WITH A MORE THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THIS WEEKEND'S POLLING.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BN INDICATED THUS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A THREE-HOUR VISIT TO PERLIS: THE LAST LEG OF HIS NATIONWIDE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TOUR

HE SAID THE BN MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT REPEAT ITS SUCCESS OF THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION, BUT FOR THIS ONE IT WAS CONFIDENT OF SECURING THE SEATS REQUIRED TO FORM A STRONG AND STABLE GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY CHANGE TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HANDLING THEM +VERY WELL+ ALTHOUGH THIS HAD NOT BEEN TO THE LIKING OF EVERYBODY, +INCLUDING FOREIGN MAGAZINES+. -- MORE  
2150MST 01 08 86

#### MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE 2 ARAU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY ON ISLAM AS +WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE PROPER POLICY FOR THE RELIGION. I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD CHANGE OUR POLICY JUST BECAUSE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES ARE MISUSING THE RELIGION+.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION, HE SAID PAS ACTIVITIES HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ISLAM, ADDING THAT THE PARTY CONSISTED OF +A LOT OF SELFISH PEOPLE+ WANTING TO BE ELECTED AND WERE USING ISLAM AS A LEVERAGE TO GET ELECTED.

ON WHY THE BN NEEDED A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS TO PREVENT UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICIANS FROM BUYING OVER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THE EVENT THERE BE A GOVERNMENT WITH A SLIM MAJORITY.

+WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE PLAYING POLITICS FOR WE HAVE A SERIOUS BUSINESS OF GOVERNING THIS COUNTRY:+ HE SAID.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON WHY HE POSTPONED UMNO'S ELECTION TO HOLD THIS GENERAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED: +I WANT TO GET RID OF THE GENERAL ELECTION. IT IS BOTHERING ME. I'M DYING TO GET ON WITH MY GOVERNMENT, THE JOB OF GOVERNING THIS COUNTRY.+ -- MORE  
2157MST 01 08 86

#### U E786 ENG COR SIN MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE 3 ARAU

ON PAS CLAIMS THAT IT HAD MADE INROADS IN THIS ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PAS MIGHT THINK SO BUT THE BN THOUGHT OTHERWISE, AND ADDED THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD PROVE THE BN CORRECT.

ON THE DAP AND ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM KIT SIANG, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED HE WOULD NOT BE ELECTED TO THE TWO SEATS HE WAS CONTESTING

-- THE TANJUNG PARLIAMENTARY AND KAMPUNG KOLAM STATE CONSTITUENCIES  
-- BOTH IN PULAU PINANG.

HE SAID CERTAIN GROUPS HAD ACCUSED THE BN OF BEING ARROGANT JUST BECAUSE THE PARTY HAD BEEN IN POWER SINCE THE FIFTIES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS NOT SO FOR IT WAS THE DAP THAT HAD BEEN ARROGANT ALL THIS WHILE.

THE BN REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT INCLUDING HIMSELF HAD ALWAYS SERVED THE PEOPLE WELL, RESPECTED THE PEOPLE'S WISHES AND WERE ALWAYS PREPARED TO MEET THE PEOPLE AND HAD ALSO SERVED THE PARTY WITH HUMILITY DURING PAST PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS COULD NOT BE SAID OF DAP REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT FOR THEY HAD REPEATEDLY BEHAVED ARROGANTLY IN PARLIAMENT. -- MORE  
2209MST 01 08 86

U E787 ENG COR SIN  
MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE 4 ARAU

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF RESENTMENT AGAINST THE BN AND THE GOVERNMENT AMONG THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

HE SAID BASICALLY THERE WAS NO SUCH RESENTMENT EXCEPT FROM SOME CALLING THEMSELVES SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS WHO THOUGHT THEY KNEW HOW TO RULE THIS COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR QUESTIONED THESE GROUPS ABOUT WHAT THEY CLAIMED TO BE A WIDENING OF RACIAL POLARISATION IN THE COUNTRY. SAYING EVIDENCE SHOWED THERE WAS TREMENDOUS COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE SINCE THIS COUNTRY WAS ENJOYING CONTINUOUS PEACE AND STABILITY.

IN FACT, HE SAID, WITHIN THE BN ITSELF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT PARTIES REPRESENTING ALL THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY WERE GETTING ALONG VERY WELL AMONG THEMSELVES, INDICATING THAT PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAD SUBSCRIBED TO RACIAL HARMONY.

ON THE SELECTION OF UMNO CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION, HE ADMITTED THERE WERE PROBLEMS AT FIRST BUT EVERYBODY IN THE PARTY CLOSED RANKS AFTER ONE OR TWO DAYS AND MANY OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL HOPEFULS HAD EVEN HELPED CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE CHOSEN CANDIDATES. --- MORE

2219MST 01 08 86

0219

U E788 ENG SIN COR  
MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE 5 ARAU

ON WHETHER HE EXPECTED TO BE CHALLENGED FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN NEXT YEAR'S PARTY ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO STEP DOWN IF THE PARTY MEMBERS NO LONGER WANTED HIM.

STRESSING THAT +I'M NOT A PERMANENT LEADER+, HE SAID UMNO MEMBERS WERE ALWAYS FREE TO ELECT A LEADER OF THEIR OWN CHOICE AND ADDED HE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PARTY IF THE MEMBERS WANTED HIM TO DO SO.

DURING HIS VISIT TO PERLIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR OPENED THE MULTI-STOREY MARA ARKED IN KANGAR AND LAUNCHED A MADA ANTI-PEST PROGRAMME FOR PADI AREAS IN THE STATE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ALOR SETAR WHERE HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL POLLING DAY ON SUNDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL OPEN THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH BATU 20 IN KODIANG, 32KM FROM ALOR SETAR, TOMORROW MORNING AND LATER THE MADA FARMER TRADING COMPANY BUILDING IN ALOR SETAR. -- BERNAMA

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