

B E595 AAE
MAHATHIR-COMPROMISE
BM

MASJID TANAH, MARCH 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE STILL DOES NOT KNOW THE REAL DEFINITION OF +COMPROMISE+ MENTIONED BY MANY PEOPLE DURING THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTION OF THE UMNO CENTRAL LEADERSHIP NEXT MONTH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT WAS REALLY MEANT BEFORE ISSUING ANY STATEMENT ON THE MATTER.

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT SEVERAL UMNO LEADERS WERE PROPOSING A +COMPROMISE+ AMONG UMNO'S +TOP FOUR+ TO PREVENT A SPLIT IN THE PARTY.

+I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IS THE COMPROMISE REFERRED TO FIRST. DOES IT MEAN THAT I BECOME PRESIDENT FOR A YEAR AND BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER PRESIDENT OR THAT WE HAVE TWO PRESIDENTS, PRESIDENT NUMBER ONE AND PRESIDENT NUMBER TWO?+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASKED.

+MANY THINGS CAN TAKE PLACE (IN A COMPROMISE),+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE ALOR GAJAH UMNO DIVISION HERE.

NEVERTHELESS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, HE WAS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF ANYONE REGARDING THE MATTER. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-COMPROMISE 2 MASJID TANAH

THE FOUR LEADERS MEANT BY THE UMNO LEADERS IN THE +COMPROMISE+ ARE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH.

TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAS BEEN SPECULATED TO CHALLENGE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHILE ENCIK GHAFAR IS SAID TO BE CONSIDERING TAKING ON DATUK MUSA.

A NEWSPAPER REPORT TODAY QUOTED UMNO YOUTH HEAD ANWAR IBRAHIM AS SAYING THAT SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS HAD BEEN WORKING +ON THE QUIET+ FOR A COMPROMISE TO AVOID CONTESTS AMONG THE +BIG FOUR+.

MEANWHILE, ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE HOME MINISTRY TAKING ACTION AGAINST UMNO LEADERS WHO RUN DOWN OTHERS IN THEIR CAMPAIGN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID THIS WOULD NOT COME ABOUT.

+IF THEY DO NOT GO AGAINST THE LAW, IT'S ALL RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSITION OF PARTI BANSU DAYAK SARAWAK (PBDS) IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, SAID HE MIGHT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH BN SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK GHAFAR TOMORROW.

SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD HAD EARLIER SAID THAT THE PBDS HAD +DROPPED ITSELF+ OUT OF THE COALITION AFTER ALL ITS STATE ASSEMBLYMEN WERE INVOLVED IN THE +BERSATU+ GROUP OUT TO TOPPLE HIM.

HOWEVER, PBDS PRESIDENT DATUK LEO MOGGIE SAID THE PARTY WAS STILL A BN MEMBER. -- BERNAMA
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