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B E918 AAE  
MAHATHIR-COMPROMISE \* \* \*  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 22<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS STILL NOT CERTAIN WHETHER EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE AMONG UMNO'S +BIG FOUR+, WHICH INCLUDES HIMSELF, EXPECTED TO CONTEST AT THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT MONTH.

HE SAID THAT SO FAR HE COULD NOT SEE ANY DEVELOPMENT OR HOPE IN EFFORTS TO WORK OUT SUCH A COMPROMISE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE DELEGATES CONFERENCES OF SEVEN FEDERAL TERRITORY UMNO DIVISIONS HERE, HE SAID HE ONLY LEARNT ABOUT THE MATTER FROM THE NEWSPAPERS.

ASKED WHETHER INFORMATION MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN WAS ONLY WAITING FOR HIS REPLY ON THE COMPROMISE BEFORE MAKING ANY ANNOUNCEMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SO FAR, HE HAD YET TO SEE ANY INDICATION OR HOPE REGARDING THE MATTER.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT IF SUCH EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE, HE HAD TO FIRST TAKE A LOOK AT THE FORM OF COMPROMISE MEANT. -- MORE  
1959MST 22 03 87

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B E929 AAE  
MAHATHIR-COMPROMISE 2 KUALA LUMPUR \* \* \*

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE PARTY PRESIDENT COULD BE CHALLENGED AND THE PRESIDENCY CONTESTED BUT SUCH CONTEST SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT CREATE A SPLIT IN THE PARTY.

HE ADDED THAT SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS AND NASTY REMARKS SHOULD NOT BE MADE AMID THE FERVOUR TO CONTEST BECAUSE THIS WOULD ONLY RESULT IN LONG DRAWN-OUT MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT IT WAS BEST FOR THE PARTY LEADERSHIP TO BE ELECTED IN TURNS, SAYING EVEN FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN HAD TO WAIT 13 YEARS BEFORE HE ELECTED UMNO PRESIDENT.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA CONTESTING THE PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENCY, HE SAID ENCIK GHAFAR WOULD CONTEST IF NOMINATED.

ASKED WHY ENCIK GHAFAR HAD YET TO CONFIRM WHICH POST HE WOULD BE CONTESTING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID CONFIRMATIONS WERE NOT NECESSARY NOW AND MANY OTHER CANDIDATES HAD ALSO NOT DONE SO. -- MORE  
2017MST 22 03 87

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B E932 AAE  
MAHATHIR-COMPROMISE 3 KUALA LUMPUR \* \* \*

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD FULLY SUPPORT ENCIK GHAFAR IN HIS BID FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY.

ON THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN SARAWAK, HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD DISCUSS AT ITS MEETING THE USE OF THE BN SYMBOL BY THE DISPUTING PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE COMING STATE ELECTION. -- BERNAMA  
2019MST 22 03 87