

B E139 AAE
MAHATHIR-POST
BM

FROM AMIN HUSAINI HARUN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, MARCH 30⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD HIS UMNO PRESIDENT POST EVEN IF HE IS RETURNED BY ONE VOTE IN NEXT MONTH'S SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN TALK HE WOULD STEP DOWN IF HE FAILED TO BE RETURNED BY A CONVINCING MAJORITY.

+THERE ARE PEOPLE SAYING I WILL RESIGN IF I WIN THE CONTEST BY A 55-45 PERCENT OR 51-49 PERCENT MARGIN BUT EVEN IF I WIN BY ONLY ONE VOTE, I WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THE POST,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ORGANISED BY THE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM MALAY SONS-OF MALAYSIA ASSOCIATION AT ISTANA EDINBURGH HERE, HE SAID HIS VICTORY WOULD BE DUE TO HIS TRACK RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE PARTY AND COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS WIDELY SPECULATED TO BE CHALLENGED FOR THE POST BY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, SAID THE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON APRIL 24 MUST BE CONDUCTED BASED ON THE TRACK RECORD OF CANDIDATES AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO RUN DOWN OTHERS. -- MORE
1846MST 30 03 87

B E152 AAE
MAHATHIR-POST 2 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY TO ENSURE WEAK LEADERS WERE ELECTED IN NEXT MONTH'S CENTRAL LEADERSHIP POLLS.

+THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF THEM TRYING TO EXERT INFLUENCE TOWARDS THIS END SO THAT LEADERS WHO ARE NOT STRONG AND WHO WILL GIVE IN TO THEM EASILY ARE CHOSEN TO LEAD MALAYSIA.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA NEEDED POLITICAL STABILITY AND STABILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES SO THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS COULD SPEAK UP WITH FIRMNESS AND COURAGE.

ONLY STRONG LEADERS COULD MAINTAIN POLITICAL STABILITY BECAUSE THEY HAD THE PEOPLE'S UNDIVIDED SUPPORT BEHIND THEM, HE ADDED.

HE SAID IN ANY ELECTION, THERE WAS BOUND TO BE TURBULENCE THAT COULD CAUSE DISUNITY AMONG PARTY MEMBERS AND THE WINNER WOULD SURELY NOT ENJOY UNDIVIDED SUPPORT. -- MORE
1901MST 30 03 87

B E165 AAE
MAHATHIR-POST 3 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE ELECTIONS NOT CAUSE DISUNITY AND THAT LEADERS ELECTED CONTINUE TO GET UNDIVIDED SUPPORT SO NOT ONLY THE PARTY BUT ALSO THE COUNTRY WOULD REMAIN STRONG.

ON CHARGES BY SOME QUARTERS THAT THE FALL IN PRICES OF MALAYSIA'S COMMODITIES WAS DUE TO ITS FIRM STAND AGAINST ZIONISM, HE SAID: I DO NOT THINK PRICES OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMODITIES CAN GO UP JUST BECAUSE WE ARE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE ZIONISTS, SIMILARLY I ALSO DO NOT BELIEVE THE PRICES DROPPED BECAUSE OF OUR OPPOSITION OF THE ZIONISTS.+

HE SAID THE DROP AFFECTED NOT ONLY MALAYSIA BUT ALL PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS LIKE PETROLEUM, PALM OIL, RUBBER AND TIN.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE SIGNS OF THE ECONOMY IMPROVING FOLLOWING THE RISE IN COMMODITY PRICES. AS A RESULT, MORE FOREIGNERS NOW WANTED TO BUY SHARES AND INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

HE SAID UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR, THERE WAS AN INFLOW OF ABOUT \$4 BILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR EQUITY PURCHASE AND INVESTMENT. -- MORE

1943MST 30 03 87