

D766

U E905 AAE

MAHATHIR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 4⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS CONFIDENT THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA WILL BE ELECTED UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT AT THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 24.

THE DELEGATES WOULD SURELY PUT THEIR TRUST IN ENCIK GHAFAR AND ELECT HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, ADDING THAT MANY DIVISIONS HAD NOMINATED ENCIK GHAFAR FOR THE POST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THAT EVEN IF ENCIK GHAFAR FAILED TO WIN THE POST, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

+THE QUESTION OF ENCIK GHAFAR WINNING OR LOSING DOES NOT ARISE AS THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD ANY PARTY POST BUT HOLD A CERTAIN POST IN THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING NATIONAL CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS DAY HERE. -- MORE
1213MST 04 04 87

D767

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+A PERSON WHO BECOMES PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER,+ HE SAID.

YESTERDAY, ENCIK GHAFAR ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS ACCEPTING THE NOMINATION TO CONTEST THE PARTY'S NUMBER TWO POST. HE WAS NOMINATED BY 76 DIVISIONS.

ASKED WHETHER ENCIK GHAFAR HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR DISCUSSIONS, ADDING THAT +IT IS UNDERSTOOD (THAT ENCIK GHAFAR WOULD CONTEST) AND FURTHERMORE I HAVE MADE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING HIM.+

+I HAVE FAITH IN HIM, AND BECAUSE OF THIS I PICKED HIM,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD BE CHALLENGED FOR THE PARTY PRESIDENCY AT THE ASSEMBLY. -- MORE
1225MST 04 04 87

D777

U E909 AAE

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+IT IS DEFINITE THAT I WILL BE CHALLENGED,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, ASKING: +IS THIS STILL NOT EVIDENT?+

IT HAS BEEN WIDELY SPECULATED THAT TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WILL ALSO CONTEST THE PARTY PRESIDENCY.

TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION WHETHER TO DO SO, BUT IS EXPECTED TO STATE HIS DECISION NEXT SATURDAY.

ON CLAIMS BY UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM THAT THE NATION'S ECONOMY WAS ON THE DECLINE, HE SAID DATUK MUSA SHOULD FURNISH INFORMATION THAT WAS CLEAR ON THIS.

ANYONE COULD SPEAK ON ANYTHING THEY WANTED, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF THE PROTON SAGA, HE SAID: +I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL ME ABOUT A CAR COMPANY THAT MAKES PROFIT WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF OPERATION, WITH DATA AND FIGURES, COMPARED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE PROTON SAGA.+ -- MORE

1253MST 04 04 87

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U E912 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+EVERYTHING CAN BE PROVEN, AND IT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE RECORDS AND STATISTICS WHO IS CORRECT AND WHO IS NOT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE DECISION OF PARTI BANSAR DAYAK SARAWAK (PBDS) IN WANTING TO USE ITS OWN SYMBOL AT THE COMING SARAWAK STATE ELECTION, WHICH IS AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT NOT EVERYONE LIKE DECISIONS MADE BY OTHERS.

ASKED FOR THE REASONS OF THE PBDS'S MOVE, HE SAID THERE WAS NO IMPORTANT REASON EXCEPT THAT IT WANTED TO CONTEST MORE SEATS THAN THE NUMBER ALLOCATED.

+IF IT USES THE BN SYMBOL, IT CANNOT CONTEST MORE THAN THE SEVEN SEATS ALLOCATED. THE PARTY WANTS TO CONTEST MORE THAN THE SEVEN,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER THE PBDS WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BN FOR GOING AGAINST THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL DECISION, HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, ADDING THAT A MEETING WOULD BE HELD SOON. -- BERNAMA

1314MST 04 04 87