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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 13 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SPOKE TODAY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CERTAIN GROUP CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION IF THEY WIN IN THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTION ON APRIL 24.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT WAS SAID THE GROUP PLANNED TO TAKE SUCH ACTION TO REMOVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO DID NOT SUPPORT OR WERE NOT WITH THE GROUP.

+THE GROUP IS SAID TO WANT ONLY DEWAN RAKYAT MEMBERS WHO ARE ON THEIR SIDE,+ HE SAID AFTER LAUNCHING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF SHAMELIN BHD HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT HE WAS ONLY RELATING WHAT HE HEARD FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS SERIOUS OR MERELY A CAMPAIGN TACTIC.

DENYING ALLEGATIONS THAT KEDAH UMNO HAD TURNED DOWN UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM'S REQUEST TO MEET PARTY MEMBERS IN THE STATE LAST FRIDAY, HE SAID THE KEDAH UMNO MEMBERS HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE PERAK UMNO BUILDING IN IPOH THAT DAY. -- MORE

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HE ADDED THAT DATUK MUSA COULD ALWAYS MEET UMNO MEMBERS FROM KEDAH ON OTHER DAYS.

ON ALLEGATIONS THAT HALF OF THE CABINET MEMBERS SUPPORTED THE GROUP OPPOSING HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +THERE ARE TWO, THREE, FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD APPROVED THE LEAVE APPLICATIONS OF SEVERAL MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHETHER THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE RESIGNATION OF THOSE CONCERNED. -- BERNAMA
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