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 UMNO-COUNCIL  
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 KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 20 (BERNAMA) -- THE OPENING OF THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY WILL NOT BE ATTENDED BY INVITED GUESTS AS IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE AT THE CONFERENCE HALL IN THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE PARTY SUPREME COUNCIL WHICH MET HERE TODAY DECIDED THAT INVITATIONS ALREADY SENT TO THE INVITED GUESTS BE WITHDRAWN.

THE INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO, AMONG OTHERS, LEADERS OF BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, FORMER UMNO PRESIDENTS TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN AND TUN HUSSEIN ONN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE THAT THE DECISION WAS IN LINE WITH THE PARTY CONSTITUTION AND MEETING PROCEDURES THAT THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD AT THE SAME HALL WHERE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS HELD.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, PART OF THE HALL WOULD BE USED TO SET UP POLLING BOOTHS AND KEEP THE BALLOT BOXES. -- MORE  
 1319MST 20 04 87

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THE ELECTION WAS EARLIER SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT DEWAN TUN HUSSEIN ONN, WHICH WAS OUTSIDE THE HALL WHERE THE ASSEMBLY WAS TO BE HELD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS THE VOTING WAS TO BE HELD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE -- TO END BEFORE 1 PM TO ENABLE DELEGATES TO ATTEND FRIDAY PRAYERS -- THE POLLING BOOTHS NEEDED TO BE SET UP IN THE HALL EARLIER.

IF THE INVITED GUESTS WERE PRESENT IN THE HALL, PREPARATIONS FOR THIS COULD NOT BE DONE EARLIER, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES THIS TIME HAD ALSO INCREASED AND MORE SPACE WAS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THEM.

BESIDES THE 1,484 DELEGATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, OTHERS ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT IN THE HALL WOULD BE 10 OBSERVERS FROM EACH OF THE 133 UMNO DIVISIONS AND TWO GUESTS OF EACH SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID OTHER UMNO MEMBERS WHO WERE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TO FOLLOW THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY COULD GATHER AT STADIUM NEGARA TO LISTEN TO THE LIVE BROADCAST BY RTM. -- MORE

1417MST 20 04 87

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE LIVE BROADCAST WOULD COVER THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BUT NOT THE TABLING OF MOTIONS AND THE DEBATE.

HE SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION BY THE PARTY'S PERMANENT CHAIRMAN WOULD ALSO BE BROADCAST LIVE IF THE RESULTS WERE KNOWN WITHIN THE TRANSMISSION HOURS OF RTM.

THE COUNTING OF VOTES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT DEWAN TUN DR ISMAIL AND ALL CANDIDATES AND THEIR DIVISIONS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO OBSERVE THE COUNTING, TO BE CONDUCTED BY 100 YOUTHS FROM THE DUSUN TUA YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE.

UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID SAID THAT TO ENSURE THAT VOTING WAS CONDUCTED SMOOTHLY, THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD GIVEN THE MANDATE TO THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF POLLING BOOTHS FROM THE 64 FIXED EARLIER.

HE SAID THAT VOTING WOULD BE CARRIED ACCORDING TO THE ROWS OCCUPIED BY THE DELEGATES AND NOT ACCORDING TO PARTY DIVISIONS AS IN THE PAST.

MEANWHILE, UMNO PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TAN SRI SULAIMAN NINAM SHAH SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH PROGRAMME DRAWN UP FOR THE MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD RUN SMOOTHLY IF ALL DELEGATES ABIDED BY THE ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE AND THE PARTY CONSTITUTION. -- BERNAMA  
1608MST 20 04 87