

U E166 DEE
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY
PARA)

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 14⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL DEFINITELY SIGN A CONTRACT WITH UNITED ENGINEERS MALAYSIA (UEM) TO CONSTRUCT THE MULTI-BILLION RINGGIT NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY.

+I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD NOT SIGN,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD NEWSMEN WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROCEED WITH THE SIGNING FOLLOWING PROTESTS FROM THE DAP, WHICH HAS ALSO WARNED OF A +NATIONWIDE CONDEMNATION+ OF THE GOVERNMENT IF IT WENT AHEAD WITH THE CONTRACT.

THE OPPOSITION PARTY HAD EARLIER ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO MOBILISE PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE CONTRACT IF UEM WAS AWARDED THE \$3.4 BILLION PROJECT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT CLAIMED TO BE AN +UNFAIR+ TENDER.

WORKS MINISTER DATUK S.SAMY VELLU HAD SAID EARLIER THAT THE CONTRACT WOULD BE SIGNED SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, SPEAKING AFTER OPENING THE NEW KUALA LUMPUR STOCK EXCHANGE OFFICE HERE, SAID HE WOULD LEAVE IT TO THE MINISTRY CONCERNED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION.-- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NASARUDDIN ALANG SAIDIN, WHO IS ALSO MP FOR PARIT, BUT HAD NOT DECIDED ON THE REPLACEMENT.

+IT IS BETTER FOR HIM TO RESIGN BECAUSE AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, HE HAS HIS OWN DUTIES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAS NOT MADE THE REPLACEMENT.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE TRYING TO INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT GOT A FULL REPORT.

ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL MEETING OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BANGKOK ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY NEWS ON IT YET.-- BERNAMA

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