

D679

U E961 AAE
MAHATHIR
BM

PULAU PINANG, SEPT 13 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS NO NEED FOR +ROUND-TABLE+ DISCUSSIONS TO RESOLVE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING IN UMNO OR TO STRENGTHEN THE SOLIDARITY AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THE BRIEFINGS PRESENTED BY HIM DURING HIS CURRENT NATION-WIDE TOUR HAD RESULTED IN BRINGING THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY UMNO MEMBERS, CLOSER TOGETHER.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PULAU PINANG, HE SAID THE BRIEFINGS HAD MADE EVERY UMNO MEMBER REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSING RANKS IN THE PARTY.

AS SUCH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THERE WAS NO NEED TO HAVE +ROUND-TABLE+ TALKS AS NOW EVERY PARTY MEMBER UNDERSTOOD HOW VITAL IT WAS TO RESOLVE IMMEDIATELY ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THAT CROPPED UP DURING THE APRIL PARTY ELECTION.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT SUCH TALKS BE HELD BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, FORMER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS. -- MORE
1132MST 15 09 87

D683

U E963 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 PULAU PINANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO PROBLEM FOR HIM TO MEET TENGKU RAZALEIGH WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS.

+DATUK MUSA WHO HAD MET ME DID NOT IMPOSE ANY CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AT ONE MEETING WITH DATUK MUSA THEY TALKED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, DISCUSSING CURRENT POLITICS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS FACED BY UMNO.

DATUK MUSA CAME TO SEE HIM BEFORE GOING OVERSEAS, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO JOHOR RECENTLY, DATUK MUSA HAD ATTENDED HIS MEETING WITH UMNO LEADERS AND THEY HAD AGAIN MET AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN JOHOR BAHRU. DATUK MUSA IS ONE OF THE UMNO DIVISION LEADERS IN JOHOR.

+IF TENGKU RAZALEIGH WANTS TO MEET ME, THERE IS NO PROBLEM. HE CAN SEE ME WHEN I VISIT KELANTAN. SURELY TENGKU RAZALEIGH WILL BE THERE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE IN KELANTAN ON OCT 2 AND 3. -- MORE
1147MST 15 09 87

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U E965 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 PULAU PINANG (CORRECTED RPTN, REPLACING EARLIER ITEM)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH DATUK MUSA, THE FORMER UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT HAD STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE MOVE BY THE 12 UMNO MEMBERS WHO HAD FILED A SUIT AGAINST THE PARTY.

+I WELCOME THE ASSURANCE BY DATUK MUSA,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WELCOMED ANYONE WHO DID NOT SUPPORT THE MOVE BY THE 12 OR THOSE WHO FINANCED THEM.

ASKED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT HE HAD A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST TENGKU RAZALEIGH AS BELIEVED BY THE FORMER MINISTER, HE SAID: +ASK HIM.+

ON CLAIMS BY TENGKU RAZALEIGH THAT THERE WAS A WITCH-HUNT AGAINST HIS SUPPORTERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT SUCH A THING HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE.

HE SAID THAT ANY CHANGES MADE IN THE SETTING UP OF THE CABINET OR STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILS WERE AIMED AT CREATING A TEAM WHERE THE MEMBERS COULD UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND COOPERATE AND DID NOT POSE AN OBSTACLE TO THE SMOOTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATION OR STATE. --
MORE

1226MST 15 09 87

0691

U E966 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 PULAU PINANG

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE DROPPED HAD EARLIER STATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS FOR THIS IF THEY LOST IN THE PARTY ELECTION.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, THEY HAD NO FAITH IN THE LEADERSHIP AND HAD EXPOSED GOVERNMENT SECRETS. +THE MOVE IN DROPPING THEM IS SURELY JUSTIFIED,+ HE SAID.

+AS FOR ME, IF I HAD LOST (IN THE PARTY ELECTION), I WOULD NOT HAVE REMAINED THE PRIME MINISTER. IT'S A FACT OF LIFE. I ACCEPT IT.+

ON HIS VISIT HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS SATISFACTORY, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO HIS EFFORTS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF UMNO AND THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE STATE.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT SOLIDARITY IN THE STATE BN WOULD BECOME STRONGER, ADDING THAT ANY ACTIVITY THAT COULD AFFECT COOPERATION AMONG THE COMPONENT PARTIES SHOULD CEASE.

TO UMNO MEMBERS, HE REMINDED THEM TO CONTINUE TO BE UNITED AND STRIVE TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF ALL PARTY PROGRAMMES NOT ONLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE PARTY BUT ALSO FOR THE GOOD OF THE MALAYS IN PARTICULAR AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL, THE NATION AND RELIGION.

PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU, EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM WHO IS ALSO STATE UMNO LIAISON HEAD, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER MOHAMED FARID ARIFFIN WHO IS BAGAN UMNO DIVISION HEAD AND STATE UMNO LIAISON SECRETARY DR IBRAHIM SAAD.

-- BERNAMA

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