

0654

B E442 AAE  
MAHATHIR-OFFER & & &  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 30 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HIS INVITATION TO DATUK MUSA HITAM AND TENGKU RAZALEISH HANZAH TO JOIN THE CABINET COMES WITHOUT ANY CONDITION.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE THREE-DAY UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE THAT HIS OFFER WAS +OPEN-ENDED+ AND HOPED THEY WOULD ACCEPT IT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE OFFER TO THE TWO FORMER UMNO LEADERS WAS DISCUSSED WITH HIS DEPUTY GHAFAR BABA BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY WAS HELD AND THE DECISION WAS MADE ONLY TODAY.

HE SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL, AND STRESSED THAT APPOINTMENTS TO THE CABINET WERE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

A LETTER ON THE INVITATION WOULD BE DESPATCHED SOON TO DATUK MUSA, THE FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH, FORMER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER. -- MORE  
1933MST 30 10 88

0660

B E444 AAE  
MAHATHIR-OFFER 2 KUALA LUMPUR & & &

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE INVITATION JUST BEFORE WINDING UP HIS ADJOURNMENT SPEECH AT THE CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY ATTENDED BY 1,545 DELEGATES AND 2,162 OBSERVERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

HE EXPLAINED THE OFFER WAS TO FORGE UNITY AMONG ALL UMNO MEMBERS AND MALAYS AS WELL AS TO PUT AN END TO WHATEVER MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONFLICTS THAT EXISTED.

HE SAID THE OFFER TO THE TWO FORMER PARTY LEADERS TO MEET HIM AND ENCIK GHAFAR FOR MALAY UNITY TALKS WAS ALWAYS OPEN.

HE DECIDED TO INVITE TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DATUK MUSA TO JOIN THE CABINET AS THERE HAD BEEN CLAIMS THE INVITATION TO THE TALKS, ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE OCT 20 PARIT RAJA BY-ELECTION, HAD PURPORTEDLY RESULTED FROM FEELINGS OF WEAKNESS ALTHOUGH IT WAS MADE IN ALL SINCERITY.

HE SAID THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TWO SHOULD JOIN UMNO BEFORE JOINING THE CABINET COULD BE DISCUSSED LATER. -- BERNAMA  
0007MST 30 10 88