

0632

0 E431 AAE

MAHATHIR-RAZALEIGH/MUSA (CORRECTED REPETITION) RRR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 30/ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS INVITED TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANZAH AND DATUK MUSA HITAM TO JOIN THE CABINET AS MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR THE SAKE OF MALAY UNITY.

HE MADE THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT JUST BEFORE WINDING UP HIS ADJOURNMENT SPEECH AT THE THREE-DAY UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH ENDED AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE THIS EVENING. DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS GIVEN A STANDING OVATION AFTER MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

EARLIER, HE ASKED THE 1,545 DELEGATES AND THOUSANDS OF OBSERVERS TO BE CALM.

+PERHAPS IT (THE ANNOUNCEMENT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE) MAY NOT BE WELL-RECEIVED BY DELEGATES,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE (ENDS CORRECTED REPETITION)

1912MST 30 10 88

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MAHATHIR-RAZALEIGH/MUSA 2 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

+HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE ALL WISH FOR UNITY, AND I BELIEVE WE MUST BE WHOLEHEARTED IN OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE UNITY, I WILL MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

+I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANZAH AND DATUK MUSA HITAM TO JOIN THE CABINET AS MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO,+ HE SAID. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION FROM THE AUDIENCE TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION OF HIS GESTURE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE INVITATION WAS MADE IN SINCERITY AS A MEASURE TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AMONG MALAYS AND UMNO MEMBERS. -- MORE

1915MST 30 10 88

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0 E435 AAE

MAHATHIR-RAZALEIGH/MUSA 3 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

ASSEMBLY PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TAN SRI SULAIMAN NINAM SHAH BEFORE ADJOURNING THE ASSEMBLY APPEALED TO BOTH TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DATUK MUSA TO ALSO IN SINCERITY ACCEPT THE INVITATION.

HE SAID THE DELEGATES HAD SHOWN THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS INITIALLY WORRIED THE DELEGATES MIGHT NOT BE AGREEABLE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE, IT WAS CLEAR THE DELEGATES GAVE IT THEIR FULL ENDORSEMENT. -- BERNAMA

1923MST 30 10 88