

U E263 AAE
MAHATHIR-PBS
BM

30 8
KUALA KELAWANG, AUG 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAHAD TODAY SAID HE WILL NOT RESHUFFLE THE CABINET UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

RETAINING ENCIK KALAUKAU UNTOL (WHO RECENTLY QUIT THE PART1 BERSATU SABAH) AS DEPUTY LABOUR MINISTER WAS NOT UNCOMMON HE SAID. +EVEN IF ONE IS EXPELLED FROM HIS PARTY, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE RETAINED HIM IN THE GOVERNMENT?+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) CHAIRMAN WAS REPLYING TO REPORTERS WHO ASKED HIM ON ENCIK KALAKAU'S POSITION FOLLOWING CURRENT CRISIS IN THE PBS.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER A GENERAL ELECTION WAS AROUND THE CORNER, THE PRIME MINISTER LAUGHINGLY REPLIED :+ (THE GENERAL ELECTION) WILL NOT BE LATER THAN APRIL 1991+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI JOSEPH PAIRINKITINGAN HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED IN SABAH AND REASONS FOR DATUK MARK KODING'S EXPULSION AS DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER.-- MORE
1544MST 26 08 89

D902

U E266 AAE
MAHATHIR-PBS 2 KUALA KELAWANG

DATUK SERI PAIRIN WAS YESTERDAY REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT DATUK KODING'S SUSPENSION FROM THE PARTY AS WELL AS 10 OTHER MEMBERS.

IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED DATUK SERI PAIRIN NOT TO CALL FOR BY-ELECTIONS IN SABAH AS THEY WOULD WASTE MONEY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO IDEA WHEN A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD.

+IF WE HOLD TWO OR THREE BY-ELECTIONS AND LATER FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL ELECTION, THIS WOULD MEAN A WASTE OF MONEY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ACCORDING TO PBS' REGULATIONS, A BY-ELECTION WOULD BE HELD IF ANYONE LEAVES OR IS EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY.

+ SO FAR HE (DATUK KODING) HAS NOT LEFT THE PARTY+, HE SAID.

ON A LIST OF PBS' NOMINEES FOR MINISTERIAL POSTS WHICH DATUK SERI PAIRIN HAD SUBMITTED TO HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET, THEN THE LIST WOULD BE CONSIDERED.-- MORE

1559MST 26 08 89

0914

U E272 AAE
MAHATHIR-PBS 3 KUALA KELAWANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WAS POISED TO WIN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BECAUSE OF IMPROVED DOMESTIC SITUATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND A CALM POLITICAL CLIMATE.

+IF THIS SITUATION PREVAILS, NORMALLY WE CAN WIN. IN 1986 DESPITE OF THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND PESSIMISTIC SPECULATIONS, WE STILL WON WITH IMPROVED PERFORMANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD WIN THE GENERAL ELECTION AT ANY TIME EVEN IN APRIL 1991.

ON A FOREIGN MAGAZINE'S VIEW THAT FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM'S APPOINTMENT AS THE GOVERNMENT'S ENVOY TO CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WAS + A REHABILITATION+, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ANYONE COULD MAKE OWN INTERPRETATIONS ON THE MATTER.

+BUT IN MY OPINION, HE (DATUK MUSA) IS CAPABLE OF BEING A SPECIAL MISSION ENVOY AND AS SUCH I THINK, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT HE DOES THE JOB,+ HE SAID.-- MORE

1619MST 26 08 89

0928 .

U E280 AAE
MAHATHIR-PBS 4 KUALA KELAUANG

HE SAID DEPUTY **PRIMEMINISTER** GHAFAR BABA WOULD LEAD MALAYSIA'S DELEGATION TO THIS YEAR'S UNITED NATIONS' GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND DATUK MUSA WILL BE ONE OF THE DELEGATES.

THE **PRIMEMINISTER** DECLINED TO COMMENT ON SPECULATIONS THAT DATUK HUSA WOULD **BE** REINSTATED INTO THE CABINET.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SAD THAT CERTAIN PERSONALITIES DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (**NECC**) WHEREAS IT WAS SET UP TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO CRITICS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY TO HELP **FORMULATE** AN ECONOMIC POLICY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL.

HE SAID IT WAS EASY TO FORMULATE AN ECONOMIC POLICY ACCEPTABLE ONLY TO A SECTOR BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO FORM A POLICY WHICH ALL QUARTERS COULD ACCEPT.

+I HOPE THEY WILL RETURN TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS AND ACCEPT THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1639MST 26 08 89