

U E423 AAE
MAHATHIR-MB

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASKED NEWSPAPERS TO LET HIM ALONE RESOLVE THE PROBLEM RELATING TO THE POSITION OF SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB.

+I SHALL NOT RESOLVE THE MATTER THROUGH THE PRESS AS I THINK THE PROBLEM CAN NEVER END IF I HANDLE IT THROUGH NEWSPAPERS, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED ALL CONCERNED TO LEAVE IT TO HIM TO DECIDE ON TAN SRI MUHAMMAD'S POSITION AS MENTERI BESAR FOLLOWING HIS SECRET MARRIAGE TO THE SULTAN OF SELANGOR'S DAUGHTER, TENGGU PUTERI ZAHARIAH WHICH HAD ANGERED THE SULTAN.

ON MONDAY THE SULTAN SAID HE WAS LEAVING IT TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO DECIDE ON TAN SRI MUHAMMAD'S POSITION.

TAN SRI MUHAMMAD IS NOW ON ONE MONTH'S LEAVE OVERSEAS.

ON HIS RETURN FROM THE NINTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN BELGRADE, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THAT HE NEEDED TIME TO STUDY THE PROBLEM IN DEPTH AND TO SEEK THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE IT. -- MORE

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+NEWSPAPERS CAN REPORT ON SO MANY OTHER STORIES, THERE IS NO NEED TO PUT OUT THIS STORY (MB) EVERYDAY, + HE SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER TAN SRI MUHAMMAD'S PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT NEWSPAPERS HAD OVERPLAYED WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN SELANGOR.

+IS IS NOT A NATIONAL TRAGEDY . . . BUT NEWSPAPERS SEEM VERY INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER+.

HE SAID THE MENTERI BESAR'S PROBLEM WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING AS ALL SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE LEAVING IT TO HIM TO RESOLVE IT.

HE SAID A SELANGOR UMNO DELEGATION WHICH MET HIM YESTERDAY WAS ALSO LEAVING THE MATTER TO HIM. -- BERNAMA

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