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B E296 AAE  
MAHATHIR-LEE R' R' R'  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 5 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY-IT IS UP TO ENCIK LEE KIM SAI AND ENCIK-LEE LAM THYE WHETHER THEY WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR PLAN TO CONTEST AGAINST EACH OTHER IN A BY-ELECTION.

+IT IS UP TO THOSE INVOLVED,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CHALLENGE BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS AFTER PERFORMING FIRDAY PRAYERS AT MASJID SALIHAN AT THE POLICE TRAINING CENTRE HERE.

HE DID NOT COMMENT FURTHER ON THE MATTER APART FROM SAYING: +IT IS UP TO THE PARTIES TO DECIDE.+

DEPUTY DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL AND MP FOR BUKIT BINTANG LEE LAM THYE HAD CHALLENGED LABOUR MINISTER LEE KIM SAI, WHO IS DEPUTY MCA PRESIDENT AND MP FOR HULU LANGAT, TO CONTEST AGAINST HIM IN A BY-ELECTION.

ENCIK LEE KIM SAI. ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE AND THE SEPUTEH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY WAS FIXED FOR THE BY-ELECTION. MAY 19 WAS FIXED FOR THE TWO LEADERS AND DAP MP FOR SEPUTEH LIEW AH KIM TO VACATE THEIR SEATS TO ENABLE THE BY-ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE, -- MORE

1659MST 05 05 8 9

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MAHATHIR-LEE 2 KUALA LUMPUR' R' R'

ENCIK LEE LAM THYE, HOWEVER, LATER DECIDED TO SUBMIT THE LETTERS OF RESIGNATION ON MAY 11 BECAUSE MAY 19 IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

ENCIK LEE KIM SAI SAID HE ACCEPTED THE DAP LEADER'S CHALLENGE TO BE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON MAY 19 TO SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTERS TO THE SPEAKER.

+THERE IS NO CHANGE IN MY STAND, I WILL NOT BE DICTATED BY LEE LAM THYE ACCORDING TO HIS WHIMS AND FANCIES.+ HE SAID.

IF THE TWO LEES PROCEED WITH THEIR PLAN IT MEANS THERE WILL BE THREE BY-ELECTIONS -- IN SEPUTEH, BUKIT BINTANG AND HULU LANGAT.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT URGED THE MCA AND THE DAP TO FIND A WAY TO AVOID HAVING THREE BY-ELECTIONS BECAUSE HE SAID THIS WOULD ONLY WASTE PUBLIC FUNDS. -- BERNAMA

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