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MAHATHIR-UMNO
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 3 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL STILL NEEDS AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FROM JOHOR BAHRU MP DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD ON HIS VARIOUS STATEMENTS OUTSIDE THE PARTY BEFORE HIS APPLICATION TO JOIN UMNO CAN BE ACCEPTED.

PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD SEND A LETTER TO DATUK SHAHRIR ASKING HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS.

DATUK SHAHRIR WOULD BE REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN HIS VARIOUS CLAIMS AND ACTIONS INCLUDING HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE FOR THE UMNO SPLINTER GROUP AND HIS SPEECH AGAINST UMNO DURING THE AMPANG JAYA PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION, AFTER THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD ACCEPTED ALL THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE JOHOR MALAY UNITY FORUM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL COULD NOT AS YET DECIDE ON DATUK SHAHRIR'S POSITION +BECAUSE OF CERTAIN MATTERS+ SUCH AS THE NEED FOR HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER CHAIRING THE MORE THAN THREE-HOUR SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE, HE SAID SEVERAL FORMER MEMBERS INVOLVED WITH THE SPLINTER GROUP HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS. -- MORE
1546MST 03 06 89

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THEY INCLUDED SUNGAI BENUT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ENCIK TAWFIK TUN ISMAIL, ENDAU ASSEMBLYMAN ENCIK KADRI SABRAN, BANDAR TENGGARA ASSEMBLYMAN ENCIK ADAM HAMID AND A FORMER MEMBER OF THE KUALA SELANGOR UMNO DIVISION, ENCIK DAUD TARIHIP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEIR APPLICATIONS WERE ACCEPTED ON MARCH 31.

HE STRESSED THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL WAS READY TO ACCEPT ALL APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE PARTY EXCEPT THOSE OF CERTAIN PEOPLE STILL DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE APPLICATIONS WERE DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES -- THOSE RECEIVED ON MARCH 31, THOSE RECEIVED TODAY, ONE APPROVED ON THE SPOT AND THOSE THAT HAD TO BE REFERRED BACK TO THE DIVISIONS.

THE FORMER MEMBERS ACCEPTED TODAY WERE FORMER UMNO YOUTH EXCO MEMBER ENCIK TAJUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN, PARIT RAJA BY-ELECTION INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE ENCIK HAMDAN YAHYA, FORMER NEGERI SEMBILAN EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DATUK KHATIMAH IBRAHIM AND ENCIK YUSUF KASSIM.

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE APPLICATION FROM FORMER PAS VICE-PRESIDENT HAJI NAKHAIE AHMAD WAS APPROVED IMMEDIATELY.

THE APPLICATIONS FROM TWO FORMER MEMBERS HAD TO BE REFERRED TO THEIR DIVISIONS FOR CLARIFICATION. THEY ARE THE BROTHER OF DATUK KHATIMAH, HAJI ZAIN IBRAHIM, AND FORMER PAS LEGAL ADVISER SUHAIMI SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE POSITION OF UMNO. IT WAS FELT THAT THE PARTY HAD BEEN FULLY RESTORED TO ITS PREVIOUS STRENGTH WITH THE NUMBER OF BRANCHES AT PRESENT TOTALLING 9,309 COMPARED WITH 8,668 PREVIOUSLY.

HE SAID THE FIGURES WERE VALID AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THEM BECAUSE ALL MEMBERS WERE NOW REGISTERED BY THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS.

ON EFFORTS TO CLAIM UMNO'S ASSETS, NOW VESTED WITH THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE, HE SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD NOT DECIDED ON THE BEST WAY OF GETTING THE ASSETS TRANSFERRED BACK TO UMNO. -- MORE
1615MST 03 06 89

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD COME UP WITH THE BEST WAY OF RECOVERING THE ASSETS IN THE INTEREST OF THE PARTY AND AN APPROPRIATE ANALYSIS ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE MADE.

HE SAID THE PROBLEM OF HANDLING ASSETS INVOLVING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY BY THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE HAD NEVER OCCURRED IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY AND MOREOVER THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MANPOWER FOR THE PURPOSE.

IT WAS AN URGENT PROBLEM AS INTEREST WAS ACCUMULATING, MAKING THE TRANSFER OF THE ASSETS MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
1616MST 03 06 89