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MAHATHIR-BERJASA

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 8 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) ACCEPTS THE WITHDRAWAL OF BERJASA AND REGARDS THE MOVE AS MAKING THINGS SIMPLER FOR THE BN WHICH NOW DOES NOT NEED TO EXPEL THE PARTY FROM THE COALITION.

PRIME MINISTER AND BN CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD -- SAID TODAY THE WITHDRAWAL HAD NO EFFECT ON THE BN BECAUSE BERJASA HAD NOT SUPPORTED THE BN FOR A LONG TIME.

DURING THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION, BERJASA MADE A DECISION NOT TO CONTEST AND IN FACT IT MEMBERS HAD SUPPORTED PAS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING A MEETING OF THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL HERE.

+THE BARISAN NASIONAL IS HAPPY TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF BERJASA, BECAUSE IF IT HAS NOT DONE SO WE WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE ACTION TO EXPEL IT FROM THE BN,+ HE SAID.

+EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NO LONGER WITH THE BN, OUR PERFORMANCE (IN THAT ELECTION) WAS NOT AFFECTED AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY 'THANK YOU' TO BERJASA BECAUSE ITS MOVE HAS MADE IT SIMPLER FOR US.+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BERJASA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

BERJASA ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BN ON MAY 25 AND SAID IT WOULD JOIN THE GROUP OF FORMER UMNO MEMBERS AND PAS IN WHAT IS BEING REFERRED TO THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH (APU).

REGARDING THE BN CANDIDATE FOR THE TELUK PASU STATE BY-ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT DECIDED BY THE BN. HE HIMSELF WOULD DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE THE CANDIDATE.

+THE BN CANDIDATE FOR TELUK PASU IS NOT DECIDED BY THE BN COUNCIL BUT WILL BE DECIDED BY ME,+ HE STRESSED.

NOMINATION DAY FOR THE BY-ELECTION IS THIS SATURDAY AND, IN THE EVENT OF A CONTEST, POLLING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 24.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THAT TODAY'S MEETING DID NOT DISCUSS A CABINET RESHUFFLE OR A GENERAL ELECTION.

+HOWEVER, WE PERMIT THE PRESS TO DISCUSS THE ELECTION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE SAY THAT WE SHOULD BE HAVING A GENERAL ELECTION SOON SO THAT OUR OPPONENTS SPEND A LOT OF TIME AND A LOT OF MONEY CAMPAIGNING,+ HE SAID LAUGHINGLY. -- BERNAMA
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