

D681

U E081 A A E
MAHATHIR-SABAH
Btl

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 22 (BERNAMA) -- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE SABAH GOVERNMENT'S AFFAIRS FOLLOWING THE DISMISSAL OF DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DATUK MARK KODING YESTERDAY? PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +AS LONG AS THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS ARE BASED ON THE LAW AND WITHIN THE RIGHTS OF THE RULING PARTI BERSATU SABAH, WE CANNOT INTERFERE.+

HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE DISMISSAL WOULD LEAD TO A POLITICAL CRISIS BECAUSE HE HAD YET TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MATTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER? WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN? WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES HERE.

SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN SACKED DATUK KODING, WHO IS ALSO PBS VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ALLEGED XNVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW PARTY. DATUK KODING WAS ALSO STATE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID HE HAD HEARD ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATE BUT DID NOT EXPECT THE SITUATION TO BECOME SO SERIOUS TO THE EXTENT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER BEING SACKED, -- MORE

1616MST 22 08 89

D693

U E090 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID DATUK SERI PAIRIN HAD NOT MET OR CONTACTED HIM OVER THE MATTER BUT HE HAD HEARD FROM DATUK KODING OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HIM BEING SACKED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS INFORMED OF THE MATTER BY DATUK KODING A FEW DAYS AGO.

+I AM AFRAID I CANNOT SAY ANYTHING BEFORE RECEIVING A FULL REPORT.. . WHETHER ONE PERSON OR MORE (WILL BE SACKED>.+

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A BY-ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO AVOID BY-ELECTIONS BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN IF THIS PARTICULAR CASE CAME UNDER STATE LAW WHERE A PERSON WHO RESIGNED FROM HIS PARTY WOULD HAVE TO VACATE HIS STATE ASSEMBLY SEAT.

ON MALAYSIA'S STAND NOT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL ORGANISATION (ICCO), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR MALAYSIA TO JOIN THE BODY BECAUSE THE COUNTRY WAS ONLY JUST ENTERING THE FIELD OF COCOA PRODUCTION. -- MORE

1627MST 22 08 89

D695

U E091 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE NATIONAL COCOA INDUSTRY WAS EXPANDING AND IF MALAYSIA WERE TO JOIN THE ORGANISATION NOW, THE COUNTRY WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO QUOTAS WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE INDUSTRY'S EXPANSION.

+WE ARE NOT A MAJOR PRODUCER... WE HAVE TO ASCERTAIN OUR CAPABILITIES FIRST,+ HE SAID.

YESTERDAY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK SAID MALAYSIA WOULD STICK TO ITS STAND NOT TO JOIN THE ORGANISATION. -- BERNAMA

1629MST 22 08 89