

D480

U E534 AAE
MAHATHIR-MEETING R'R'R'R
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE MEETING BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WILL NOT BE A +FOUR-EYED+ MEETING BUT THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL OTHER LEADERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MEETING WOULD NOT ONLY INVOLVE HIMSELF AND THE LEADER OF PARTI SEMANGAT 46 AS IT WAS AIMED AT LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF UNITY.

+I WILL NOT BE ALONE. CERTAINLY TENGKU RAZALEIGH WILL BRING ALONG HIS ASSOCIATES .. AS WE WANT TO SEEK WAYS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS. WE ARE NOT GIVING GREATER EMPHASIS TO FORMALITY... BUT PLACING GREATER IMPORTANCE TO UNITY,+ HE SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHEN HE HAD FREE TIME.

ASKED WHAT HE EXPECTED FROM THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT DECLINED TO SPECULATE BEFORE THE MEETING IS HELD. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MEETING 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R' R'

+I DO NOT KNOW ..THE THING IS TO MEET FIRST...I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE WANTS TO SAY,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT HE WOULD BRING UP AT THE MEETING TO THE PRESS AS IT COULD AFFECT THE MEETING.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TENGKU RAZALEIGH WANTING THE OLD UMNO TO BE REHABILITATED, HE SAID THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD DECIDED THAT ANYTHING THAT COULD LEAD TO CHANGES TO THE PARTY MUST BE REFERRED TO THE ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID BASED ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THE ASSEMBLY, THE DELEGATES WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE PRESENT UMNO WAS THE ORIGINAL UMNO AND THE QUESTION OF IT BEING DECLARED UNLAWFUL BY THE COURT WAS ONLY A TECHNICAL MATTER.

ON THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE SAID THE DELEGATES HAD DEMONSTRATED A HIGH SPIRIT AND HAD STATED POSITIVE VIEWS TOWARDS THE PROGRAMME AND POLICIES OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID THEY WERE FREE TO CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT AND WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT CLARIFICATIONS FROM PARTY LEADERS ON SEVERAL ISSUES. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MEETING 3 KUALA LUMPUR R' R'

COMMENTING ON THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MORE WOULD JOIN THE PARTY INCLUDING THOSE WHO WANTED TO RETURN TO IT.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS AT 1.3 MILLION NOW WAS MORE ACCURATE COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OF 1.4 MILLION MEMBERS BEFORE AS THE MEMBERSHIP LIST NOW WAS PROCESSED BY COMPUTER AND THERE WAS NO DOUBLE COUNTING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THOSE INTENDING TO JOIN UMNO THAT THEY SHOULD ACCEPT ALL THE CONDITIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UMNO STRUGGLE.

HE SAID UMNO WAS ACTIVELY MAKING EFFORTS TO INCREASE ITS MEMBERSHIP AND ADDED THAT RECENTLY SOME 500 PAS MEMBERS IN TERENGGANU HAD JOINED THE PARTY.

ASKED IF UMNO WOULD SEE TO IT THAT STUDENTS OF UMNO CLUBS OVERSEAS WOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE DURING THE ELECTION, HE SAID AT THE MOMENT THERE WAS NO PROVISION TO ENABLE THOSE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO CAST THEIR VOTES.

HE SAID POSTAL VOTING NOW ONLY INVOLVED MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THOSE SERVING IN IRAQ AND NAMIBIA UNDER UNITED NATIONS FORCES NOW COULD DO SO (POSTAL VOTING). --
BERNAMA

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