

U E612 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS  
BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN  
EMBARGO: FOR USE AFTER 6 P.M. TODAY  
=====

89  
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE WILL WAIT FOR THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO ADVISE THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS.

HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ANY RULING PARTY TO DO BEFORE IT DECIDES TO SEEK A NEW MANDATE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT MEMBERS OF THE PARTY ARE PREPARED FOR IT.

+IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO SURPRISE THE OPPOSITION, WE MUST BE PREPARED. OTHERWISE, WE WILL BE SURPRISING OURSELVES,+ HE SAID COMMENTING ON THE WIDESPREAD SPECULATIONS OVER THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS.

IN HIS YEAR-END INTERVIEW WITH SENIOR LOCAL EDITORS HERE, HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT TERM WOULD END BY OCTOBER 1991, HE HAD NOT MADE ANY DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO WAIT UNTIL THAT DATE.

HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO DECIDE TO GO FOR THE ELECTIONS AND FINDING OUT SUDDENLY THAT HIS PARTY WAS NOT READY FOR IT WHILE THE OPPOSITION WAS PREPARED. -- MORE.

1138MST 28 12 89

U E604 AAE

MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

IT THIS WAS THE CASE, IT WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR THE RULING PARTY, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE FACT THAT HE WAS GIVING HIS PARTY ORDERS TO GET READY WAS NO INDICATION THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE ELECTIONS SOON.

+IF I'M GOING TO HAVE THAT KIND FLEXIBILITY TO ANNOUNCE WHEN THE ELECTIONS IS GOING TO BE, AND TO ANNOUNCE IT WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD BEFORE ELECTION IS TO BE HELD, THEN I MUST BE VERY SURE THAT AT ANY TIME THE PARTY IS READY,+ HE SAID.

ON HOW HE FORESAW THE CHALLENGE OF SEMANGAT 46 IN THE UP-COMING GENERAL ELECTION IF THE CURRENT DISPUTE WAS NOT RESOLVED BY THEN, HE SAID PARTY SEMANGAT 46 WOULD NOT WIN THE ELECTION.

+THAT IS GOING TO BE THE PATTERN. THEY WILL NOT WIN THE ELECTION, 46 WILL NOT WIN THE ELECTION. THEY WILL CAUSE PAS TO WIN. AND OF COURSE IF THEY COOPERATE WITH THE DAP, THE DAP WILL WIN THE ELECTION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO THE UMNO PRESIDENT CONTENDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT THAT BAD FOR UMNO.

+I THINK WE CAN HOLD OUR OWN IN MANY STATES. BUT THERE WILL BE SOME MARGINAL SEATS WHERE WE WILL LOSE,+ HE ADDED.-- MORE

1116MST 28 12 89

R E605 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON HIS DIALOGUE WITH SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH ON MALAY UNITY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS USEFUL AND HE WOULD CONTINUE HAVING IT IF THERE WAS SUCH A WISH.

AN INTERVIEWER INTERRUPTED SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WERE EXPECTING MORE THAN JUST DIALOGUES IN THAT THEY WERE BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING WOULD COME OUT OF THE DIALOGUES.

+I DON'T KNOW WHAT GIVES THE PEOPLE THAT IMPRESSION. ARE THEY REALLY EXPECTING THAT UMNO WILL DISSOLVE ITSELF WITH 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE, VERY STRONG SUPPORTERS?+ HE ASKED.

+DON'T TALK ABOUT ME, I'M ALSO SUBJECTED TO THOSE PEOPLE ...IF I GO MY OWN WAY, THEY WILL NOT FOLLOW ME,+ HE ADDED.

ANOTHER INTERVIEWER INTERVENED:+THEY DON'T WANT UMNO TO BE DISSOLVED. IF THEY DON'T WANT UMNO TO BE DISSOLVED, HOW CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE SEMANGAT 46?

THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED:+ THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO EVERYBODY. SO WHY DO THEY THEY HAVE SUCH BIG EXPECTATION.

ANOTHER QUESTION:+ ACTUALLY, THE EXPECTATION IS WITH REGARD TO 46...FOR 46 TO DISSOLVE AND REJOIN UMNO. THAT IS THE GENERAL EXPECTATION. SINCE THEY ARE SAYING THEY ARE NOT GOING TO DO THAT...SO YOU WILL PERSIST IN HOLDING DIALOGUE WITH THEM?+

+IF THERE IS A WISH TO HOLD THE DIALOGUE, WE WILL HAVE THE DIALOGUE,+ HE REPLIED. -- BERNAMA  
1205MST 28 12 89