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MAHATHIR-UNITY

BM
SEREMBAN, FEB 24⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAY UNITY WITHIN UMNO WAS AT A GOOD LEVEL EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE PROBLEM WHICH IS NORMAL IN ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

IN THIS RESPECT, UMNO AND THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WERE IN A GOOD POSITION TO WIN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, HE ADDED.

THOUGH BN FACED INTERNAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS CONFLICTS WITHIN PARTIES AND THE QUESTION OF CANDIDATES, SUCH PROBLEMS WERE ALSO PRESENT IN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES SUCH AS SEMANGAT 46, THE DAP AND PAS, HE SAID.

+BN IS NOT FACING MANY PROBLEMS AND THERE IS ALSO NO PROBLEM IN FACING OPPOSITION PARTIES BUT THERE IS A LITTLE PROBLEM SUCH AS ON THE QUESTION OF CANDIDATES, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A HOLDING A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH NEGERI SEMBILAN UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS HERE.

THE MEETING WITH STATE UMNO LEADERS WAS HELD AT THE SEREMBAN TOWN HALL AND THAT WITH STATE BN LEADERS AT THE WISMA NEGERI THEATRETTE, HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD YET TO DECIDE ON WHEN TO CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION THOUGH THE COUNTRY IS NOW ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY STABLE WITH INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE PEOPLE. -- MORE

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+I THINK WE STILL HAVE PROBLEMS, WE DON'T WANT TO USE THE GENERAL ELECTION TO PLAY AROUND EVEN THOUGH WE THINK WE CAN WIN AND, IN FACT, THE ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD EVERY FIVE YEARS, + HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SABAH ARE GOOD.

+DATUK SERI PAIRIN KITINGAN MET ME ONLY TWO DAYS AGO AND OUR RELATIONS ARE QUITE GOOD, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE SECURITY FORCES WERE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF LOCATING BOOBY TRAPS SET BY THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN THE JUNGLES.

THE TRAPS ARE BEING REMOVED FOLLOWING THE LAYING DOWN OF ARMS BY THE OUTLAWED COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM).

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF DELAY IN COUNTING OF VOTES AND ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS IN BY-ELECTIONS.

HE SAID HIS VISIT TO SEREMBAN WAS PART OF HIS TOUR OF STATES, INCLUDING SABAH AND SARAWAK, TO INSPECT PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION AND TO ENSURE A LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR BN.

EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF UMNO AND BN IN NEGERI SEMBILAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BN WOULD RECAPTURE THE SEREMBAN AND RASAH PARLIAMENTARY SEATS NOW HELD BY THE DAP. -- BERNAMA

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