

0534

U E294 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 7 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WILL LEAD AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL DELEGATION TO THE VARIOUS STATES TO LOOK INTO PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT WILL FIRST VISIT KELANTAN TO BE FOLLOWED BY TERENGGANU, PAHANG AND PERAK.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING A TWO-AND-A HALF HOUR UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

HE SAID IN THE COURSE OF THE VISIT HE WOULD HOLD DIALOGUES WITH UMNO LEADERS AT DIVISIONAL AND BRANCH LEVELS AND ALSO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES. -- MORE  
2025MST 07 04 90

0538

U E296 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE VISIT WAS NOT AIMED AT SELECTING CANDIDATES, FOR ACCORDING TO HIM, THE TIME HAD NOT COME FOR THIS.

ASKED WHY HE WISHED TO VISIT KELANTAN FIRST, HE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A MERE COINCIDENCE AND NOT BECAUSE UMNO FACED STIFF COMPETITION FROM THE OPPOSITION IN PARTICULAR PARTI SEMANGAT 46.

+WE BELIEVE THE SITUATION IN KELANTAN IS NOT AS BAD AS MADE OUT,+ HE SAID:

+UMNO IS EVER READY TO FACE THE ELECTION,+ HE ADDED.

THE VISIT WOULD ALSO COVER AREAS WHERE CANDIDATES FROM OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD CONTEST AS IT WAS THE DUTY OF UMNO TO ENSURE THE BN'S VICTORY. -- MORE

2032MST 07 04 90

0540

U E297 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED AS TO WHAT WOULD BE THE ISSUES WHICH THE OPPOSITION WOULD RAISE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE OPPOSITION WOULD TRY TO CREATE ISSUES EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NO ISSUES AT PRESENT.

+THEY WILL INVENT ANYTHING AND EVEN LIKEN ME TO IDI AMIN (A FORMER UGANDAN PRESIDENT),+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TODAY'S MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER THE DATE FOR THE ASSEMBLY HAD YET TO BE DETERMINED.

IN THIS RESPECT, BRANCH GENERAL MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD IN JUNE TO BE FOLLOWED BY DIVISIONAL CONFERENCES. -- MORE  
2040MST 07 04 90

0543

U E298 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

APART FROM THAT, TODAY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING ALSO EVALUATED THE POST MORTEM REPORT ON THE RECENT PANTAI MERDEKA BY-ELECTION RESULT TO ENSURE THAT SHORTCOMINGS DID NOT RECUR.

+WE FOUND THERE WERE CERTAIN WEAKNESSES IN THE PARTY ELECTION MACHINERY. EVEN THOUGH VICTORY WAS ATTAINED, WE ARE NOT SATISFIED AS WE WANT A BIGGER VICTORY,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE APRIL 12 BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS MEETING WAS NOT A BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING BUT A MEETING AMONG LEADERS OF COMPONENT PARTIES.

ASKED WHETHER THE MEETING WAS CONNECTED TO THE GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID: +YES, EVERYTHING IS RELEVANT. WHATEVER WE DO NOW, PEOPLE THINK IT IS CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTION.+

HE SAID THE MEETING WAS AIMED AT GETTING PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

IT WOULD ALSO DISCUSS GENERAL MATTERS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA  
2051MST 07 04 90