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R E763 AAE  
MAHATHIR - BN R'R'R'  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 APRIL (BERNAMA) -- THE MEETING OF BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS TODAY DECIDED TO REVIVE BN ELECTION MACHINERY IN PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE CONSTITUENCIES AND TO DRAFT A JOINT MANIFESTO AS PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS TO FACE THE COMING ELECTION.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID BN COMMITTEES IN PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE CONSTITUENCIES WOULD COORDINATE COOPERATION AMONG COMPONENT PARTIES.

THE COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD BE ASKED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE THE MANIFESTO, HEADED BY BN SECRETARY GENERAL, ENCIK GHAFAR BABA.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING WHICH LASTED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID:

+THE PRESS MAY POSSIBLY REGARD THIS AS A SIGN THAT WE WILL SOON HOLD THE ELECTION. I WISH TO TELL YOU IT WILL BE HELD SOON. IN TERMS OF TIME ONE AND A HALF YEARS IS NOT A LONG TIME WHEN COMPARED WITH 100 YEARS.+ -- MORE

1337MST 12 04 90

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MAHATHIR-BN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS RACES SINCE INDEPENDENCE SHOULD MAINTAINED AS ONLY THE BN COULD GUARANTEE STABILITY ON THE COUNTRY.

+WE RE-EMPHASISE THIS MATTER AS IT IS ONLY THROUGH THIS COOPERATION THAT THE COUNTRY HAS ENJOYED STABILITY AND ACHIEVED SUCCESS IN DEVELOPMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT BN LEADERS WELCOMED THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE GERAKAN AND MCA TO COOPERATE IN PULAU PINANG TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE BN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PARTY LEADERS ALSO AGREED THAT THE RATIO OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS BETWEEN THEM WOULD NOT BE CHANGED WHILE SWAPPING OF SEATS AMONG PARTIES COULD BE MADE THROUGH MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE REPRESENTATIVES OF COMPONENT PARTIES ALSO RAISED CERTAIN ISSUES AT THE MEETING BUT HE DECLINED TO STATE WHAT THEY WERE. -- MORE

1407MST 12 04 90

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MAHATHIR-BN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES COULD NOT EXPLOIT ANY ISSUE EXCEPT THOSE THEY MADE UP DELIBERATELY FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE BN WAS CONFIDENT IT COULD COUNTER ANY ISSUE THAT WOULD BE USED BY THE OPPOSITION DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

ON THE THEME OF THE BN MANIFESTO, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED AND THAT IT WAS UP TO ENCIK GHAFAR TO PREPARE THE DRAFT.

ENCIK GHAFAR, WHEN ASKED ON THE ROLE OF THE BN COMMITTEES IN PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE CONSTITUENCIES, SAID THEY WERE AIMED AT ENSURING THAT PARTIES IN THE BN CARRIED OUT THEIR CAMPAIGNS JOINTLY AND DID NOT JUST CONCENTRATE ON A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY.

HE SAID PREVIOUSLY CAMPAIGNS WERE HELD SEPARATELY WITH UMNO CONCENTRATING ONLY ON THE MALAY COMMUNITY AND THE MCA ON THE CHINESE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHEN ASKED ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES, SAID ALL FACTORS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT LIKE THE CANDIDATE'S PERFORMANCE AND WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A BANKRUPT AND OF SOUND MIND. -- MORE

1422MST 12 04 90

R E775 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED WHETHER CERTAIN GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO TAPES SCANDAL WOULD BE SELECTED TO BECOME CANDIDATES, THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED: +WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE VIDEO TAPE SCANDAL?+

WHEN THE REPORTER WHO POSED THE QUESTION RETORTED: +WHAT IF THERE IS+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WE WILL NOT CONSIDER PEOPLE WHO OPERATE, PLAN AND STEAL VIDEO TAPES FOR THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS. SUCH PEOPLE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS OUR CANDIDATES,+

WHEN FURTHER ASKED WHAT IS TO HAPPEN TO THOSE ACTING IN THE VIDEO TAPES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +ON THOSE ACTING, WE WILL VIEW WHETHER THEY ARE THE ONES ACTUALLY ACTING. IF THE ACTING IS DONE BY OTHERS, HOW ARE WE TO KNOW -- SOMETIMES PEOPLE LOOK ALIKE+.

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALLOW PUBLIC RALLIES DURING THE NEXT ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CONDUCTED A STUDY ON THE MATTER AND COULD NOT SEE THE BENEFIT OF ALLOWING PUBLIC RALLIES.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT IF THE POLICE COULD GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT SUCH RALLIES WOULD NOT LEAD TO RIOTS OR OTHER PROBLEMS. -- MORE

1440MST 12 04 90

R E779 AAE

MAHATHIR-BN 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE CITED AN INCIDENT DURING THE RECENT BY-ELECTION FOR THE PANTAI MERDEKA STATE SEAT WHEN THE SITUATION BECAME TENSE BECAUSE AN OPPOSITION PARTY TRIED TO TAKE THE LAW INTO ITS OWN HANDS.

HE SAID DURING THE BY-ELECTION THERE WERE SUPPORTERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES WHO +ARRESTED+ ON THEIR OWN UMNO SUPPORTERS SAID TO HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE, WITHOUT REPORTING THE MATTER TO THE POLICE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO RELATED AN INCIDENT IN TERENGGANU WHERE A SUPPORTER OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY TOOK OUT HIS PARANG WHEN A POLICE PARTY WANTED TO ARREST A PERSON FOUND TO HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

HE SAID IF SUCH INCIDENTS WERE LEFT UNCHECKED SEVERAL PROBLEMS COULD ARISE WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS HELD.

HE REMINDED OPPOSITION PARTIES NOT TO INVOLVE SUCH PEOPLE DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION AS IT WOULD POSE PROBLEMS.

ASKED WHETHER TODAY'S MEETING DECIDED ON WHAT SYMBOL WOULD BE USED BY USNO AND PBS IN SABAH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING STUDIED INCLUDING BY BOTH THE PARTIES FROM SABAH.

EACH COMPONENT PARTY WAS REPRESENTED BY AT LEAST THREE LEADERS MADE UP OF THEIR PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL.

-- BERNAMA

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