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MCA-MAHATHIR R'R'R'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY IF POSSIBLE THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CONTEST FOR THE TOP MCA POSTS.

URGING THE MCA TO TAKE NOTE OF THE UMNO EXPERIENCE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID IF POSSIBLE A CONTEST SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND MCA PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK LEE KIM SAI SHOULD HOLD DISCUSSIONS AND FIND A SETTLEMENT AMICABLY.

+DON'T BECOME LIKE UMNO. WHEN (HE) LOST, HE DRAGGED UMNO TO COURT TO THE EXTENT OF IT BEING RULED UNLAWFUL. THE MCA SHOULD NOT COPY SUCH BEHAVIOUR. IT'S ENOUGH WITH UMNO,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING 200 ORANG ASLI LEADERS AT HIS RESIDENCE SERI PERDANA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF THERE WAS AN ELECTION, THE LOSER SHOULD SUPPORT THE WINNER AND CLOSE RANKS AFTER THE PARTY ELECTIONS.

HE DENIED CLAIMS THAT HE HAD DIRECTED DATUK LEE KIM SAI, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER, TO CHALLENGE DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK WHO IS TRANSPORT MINISTER. -- MORE
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MCA-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE SAID WHEN UMNO WAS FACED WITH A PARTY ELECTION IN 1987; HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CONTEST AND INSTEAD THERE SHOULD BE DISCUSSIONS FOR CERTAIN POSTS BUT THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS ANXIOUS THE CONTEST WOULD AFFECT THE BN PERFORMANCE IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO.

HE FELT THE TWO MCA LEADERS WERE MATURE ENOUGH AND UNDERSTOOD THAT IF THEY WERE TO DO ANYTHING AS WAS DONE BY CERTAIN PEOPLE IN UMNO, EVERYONE IN PARTICULAR THE CHINESE COMMUNITY WOULD STAND TO LOSE.

+I THINK THEY WON'T DO SUCH A THING,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER HE WANTED TO MEET THE TWO LEADERS TO GIVE THEM ADVICE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD ALREADY MET THEM BEFORE THEIR DECISION TO CONTEST WAS ANNOUNCED.

HE SAID HE HAD STATED HIS STAND TO BOTH OF THEM AND DID NOT WISH TO SIDE ANYONE.

HE SAID HE WAS UNLIKELY TO MEET THE TWO LEADERS AGAIN BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN THEIR PARTY MATTERS. -- BERNAMA
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