

KUALA TERENGGANU, AUG 13^{qu} (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID SOME BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) LEADERS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS STILL CANNOT FULLY GRASP ITS CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES.

THEY LACK INDEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE BN'S HISTORY BECAUSE THEY WERE BORN AFTER THE RULING COALITION, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ALLIANCE, WAS ESTABLISHED, HE SAID.

+ SOME JOIN UMNO, MCA, MIC OR ANY OTHER BN COMPONENTS, WITHOUT KNOWING THE ORIGINS OF THE BN ITSELF, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH TERENGGANU BN LEADERS AT WISMA DARUL IMAN HERE THIS EVENING.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE MCA PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, MIC PRESIDENT DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK, UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMAD RAHMAT AND TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AT THE MEETING HE EXPLAINED TO THE STATE BN LEADERS ABOUT THE BN CONCEPT AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN ENSURING THAT THE COALITION WOULD BE RETURNED TO POWER IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.-- MORE

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HE SAID BN COMPONENT PARTY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS MUST APPRECIATE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BOTHER ABOUT WHO WOULD BE CHOSEN TO STAND IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THEY SHOULD WORK HARD AND GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE BN CANDIDATE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE REPRESENTS UMNO, MCA, MIC OR GERAKAN, + HE SAID.

ELECTIONS WERE HELD NOT JUST TO LET ANYONE BECOME ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES BUT TO SET UP A STRONG AND STABLE GOVERNMENT, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE URGED BN MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS TO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT WHOEVER THE PARTY PICKED AS CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT POLLS AS NOT ALL INCUMBENT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE RETAINED.

BN CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE A MIX OF OLD AND NEW FACES, HE SAID.-- MORE

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS NON-COMMITTAL WHEN REPORTERS ASKED HIM ABOUT THE DATE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE HOWEVER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE RECENT BN VICTORIES IN THE KUALA LINGGI AND KIJAL STATE BY-ELECTIONS WOULD FORM +PART OF THE INPUT IN DECIDING THE DATE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS AN OPPOSITION PRACTICE TO KEEP SPECULATING ABOUT THE ELECTION DATES.

+ THEY FIRST SPECULATED IT WILL BE IN 1987, HARDLY A YEAR AFTER THE 1986 POLLS. THEN THEY SAID IT WILL BE IN 1988, THEN 1989 AND THEIR LATEST SPECULATION IS NEXT MONTH+, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID FIXING THE ELECTION DATE IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE RULING PARTY AND NOT THE OPPOSITION'S.-- BERNAMA
2007MST 13 08 90