

MAHATHIR - HAWKERS

BM

BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH, SEPT 6<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO ENDED A VISIT TO THE VARIOUS STATES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA TODAY SAID HE PLANS ANOTHER SERIES OF VISITS WHICH WILL INCLUDE SABAH AND SARAWAK. (P)

THE VISITS WERE AIMED AT BRIEFING GROUPS SUCH AS PETTY TRADERS AND HAWKERS' ASSOCIATIONS ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO TO INSPECT THE BN ELECTION MACHINERY.

THE VISITS TO SABAH AND SARAWAK WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED DOOR MEETING WITH PAHANG COMMUNITY LEADERS HERE.

ASKED WHETHER THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE CALLED AFTER HIS VARIOUS VISITS, HE SAID THIS DEPENDED ON +INSPIRATION+ AND THE ELECTION COULD BE HELD EVEN DURING HIS VISIT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD ATTEND THE COMING SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS THE PERIOD HE WOULD BE OVERSEAS WOULD BE TOO LONG -- 14 DAYS. -- MORE  
1934MST 06 09 90

D596

U E686 AAE

MAHATHIR - HAWKERS 2 BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH

+THE PERIOD IS TOO LONG. IF I AM AWAY FOR 14 DAYS, I WILL HAVE TO PUT OFF MY VISITS AND THIS WILL JEOPARDISE MY EFFORTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND POOL THE BN ENERGY.+

+INITIALLY I THOUGHT IT CAN BE SETTLED IN ONE WEEK BUT MANY THINGS NEED TO BE DONE THERE AND THIS WILL TAKE UP MUCH TIME. I CANNOT BE OVERSEAS FOR 14 DAYS, I AM FRIGHTENED THAT THERE MAY BE ELECTIONS WHEN I AM OVERSEAS,+ HE ADDED IN A LIGHTER VEIN.

HE SAID HE ALWAYS GAVE PRIORITY TO DOMESTIC MATTERS AND OVERSEAS MATTERS WERE ATTENDED TO WHEN THERE WAS TIME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE MANY MATTERS HE HAD TO EXPLAIN DURING THE SERIES OF VISITS SUCH AS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OPPOSITION WHERE PAS WAS SUPPORTING THE GROUP OF CHINESE EDUCATIONISTS WHO HAD SINCE JOINED THE DAP.

ON THE USE OF SYMBOLS BY BN COMPONENT PARTIES IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD YET TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL APPLICATION ONE THE MATTER. -- MORE  
1948MST 06 09 90

D607

U E688 AAE

MAHATHIR - HAWKERS 3 BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH (REQUESTED REPETITION)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE QUESTION OF SYMBOLS WAS NOT A PROBLEM IN THE PENINSULA. THE PROBLEM AROSE IN SABAH AND SARAWAK BECAUSE THE PARTIES THERE OPPOSED EACH OTHER AT STATE LEVEL EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BN MEMBERS.

HOWEVER IT WAS A MINOR PROBLEM AND THE BN HAD CERTAIN WAYS OF RESOLVING IT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT JUST AS IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION.

HOWEVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS AMONG COMPONENT PARTIES IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WOULD BE NEGOTIATED LATER WHILE IN THE CASE OF THE PENINSULA NO PROBLEM AROSE.

PRESENT AT THE CLOSED DOOR MEETING WERE PAHANG MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI KHALIL YAKOB, TRANSPORT MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS MINISTER DATUK SERI S.SAMY VELLU AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK.