

MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WAS STUDYING THE LIST OF UMNO CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WHICH HE HAD BEGUN RECEIVING FROM THE STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COMMITTEES ONLY HAD THE RIGHT TO SUBMIT THE LIST WHICH HE SAID WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER CHAIRING A MEETING OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL HERE THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTIES TO ENSURE THAT THE CANDIDATES THEY PROPOSED HAD A CLEAN RECORD.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE NOMINATION OF BN CANDIDATES WAS NOT REJECTED BECAUSE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS OR BANKRUPTCY PROBLEMS.

ON SEATS HELD BY HAMIN AND BERJASA, HE SAID THAT IF THE TWO PARTIES WERE STILL IN THE BN HE WAS CONFIDENT THE SEATS WOULD BE REALLOCATED TO THEM AS A FAVOUR. -- MORE
1819MST 08 09 90

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R E902 AAE
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+AS THEY HAVE ALREADY GONE TO THE OTHER SIDE, HAMIM AND BERJASA HAVE TO REQUEST FROM SEMANGAT 46 AND I AM CONFIDENT (SEMANGAT) 46 WOULD GIVE THEM NOT EVEN HALF OF THE CONSTITUENCY,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT USE THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) TO CHECK CANDIDATES FROM RAISING SPECIFIC ISSUES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE CANDIDATES IF THEY WANTED TO BE CHAMPIONS OF A CERTAIN ISSUE BECAUSE IT WAS THEIR RIGHT BUT WARNED THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IF THEY BEGAN TO CAMPAIGN TO INCITE VIOLENCE.

+THIS IS IN LINE WITH DEMOCRACY ... IN FACT, AT TIMES, WE ALSO ALLOW WRONGDOING WITHOUT ACTION BEING TAKEN,+ HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DAP AND PAS WHICH SOLD COPIES OF THEIR PARTY ORGANS, THE ROCKET AND HARAKAH RESPECTIVELY, IN SHOPS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE FOR DISTRIBUTION ONLY AMONG PARTY MEMBERS. -- MORE
1827MST 08 09 90

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R E905 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT EVEN IF CANDIDATES USED RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES, ACTION WOULD NOT BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM IF THESE ISSUES DID NOT GIVE RISE TO TENSION.

HE SAID PAS ITSELF USED RELIGIOUS ISSUES BY EXPLOITING ISLAM FOR THE INTEREST OF CERTAIN PEOPLE +BUT WE BELIEVE, THE PEOPLE CAN DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN GLASS AND GEMSTONES.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED ALL STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEES TO GATHER GROUPS WHICH HE SHOULD MEET DURING HIS THIRD NATIONWIDE TOUR.

HE SAID HE WOULD EMBARK ON THE THIRD TOUR OF THE COUNTRY ONLY AFTER HE VISITED SABAH AND SARAWAK IN HIS CAPACITY AS BN CHAIRMAN FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM A FIVE-DAY VISIT OF SOUTH KOREA BEGINNING MONDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD NOT ATTEND THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFTER HIS SOUTH KOREAN VISIT AND THAT HE MIGHT SEND FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE. -- MORE

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R E906 AAE
MAHATHIR-CANDIDATES 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID BN COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM ON HIS VISIT TO SABAH AND SARAWAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN WOULD BE IN THE DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING HIM TO SOUTH KOREA AND THAT HE WOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH DATUK PAIRIN ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO HIS VISIT TO SABAH.

THE THREE-HOUR UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE GENERAL ELECTION AND THE CRISIS IN THE GULF. --
BERNAMA

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