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RM - MEETING

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WILL HOLD A MEETING WITH CHIEF MINISTERS AND MENTERIS BESAR TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES.

HE SAID THE MEETING COULD BE HELD +AT ANY TIME FROM NOW ON+. +WE CAN MEET EVEN TODAY OR TOMORROW IN MY OFFICE OR ELSEWHERE,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HE OPENED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MALAYSIAN HOKKIEN ASSOCIATIONS HERE TODAY.

THE MEETING WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REVIEW THE BARISAN NASIONAL STRENGTH IN THE RESPECTIVE STATES, ACCORDING TO THE STATE BN ANALYSIS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT BN WAS ONLY DEPENDING ON THE REPORTS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING TO ANALYSE THE OVERALL POSITION OF THE PARTY.

+WE HAVE OTHER INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1234MST 17 09 90

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R E118 AAE  
PM - MEETING 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED WHETHER THE MEETING WAS LIKELY TO BE THE FINAL ONE BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS HELD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED: +HOW CAN IT BE THE LAST... MEETING ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH, IF POSSIBLE, WE WANT TO MEET ALWAYS.+

HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED THE LIST OF CANDIDATES SUBMITTED BY CERTAIN PARTIES AND THERE WERE ALSO PARTIES WHICH HAD YET TO SUBMIT THEIRS.

BN ALSO HAD YET TO COMPLETE DRAFTING OF ITS MANIFESTO FOR THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION, HE ADDED.

+WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, IT WILL BE THE SOLE ONE, UNLIKE SOME PARTIES WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT MANIFESTOS FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THERE WAS A PARTY WHICH HAD A MANIFESTO SPECIALLY FOR THE CHINESE WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE MANIFESTO FOR THE PEOPLE OF TERENGGANU, FOR EXAMPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME FOR HIS VISIT TO SABAH AS BN CHAIRMAN WAS BEING ARRANGED.

COMMENTING ON THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE CHERAS TOLL, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO BEAR THE COST AS A RESULT OF IT.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO PAY SYARIKAT K.G.TERATAI SDN BHD \$100,000 A DAY AND IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE MOUNTING BURDEN, THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED QUICKLY,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
1334MST 17 09 90

R E120 AAE  
PM - MEETING 3 KUALA LUMPUR

A STUDY ON THE PROBLEM WAS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE WORKS MINISTRY AND KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DISMISSED A SUGGESTION THAT TOLL PAID PRIOR TO THE SUSPENSION BE REFUNDED. +THAT IS BEYOND LIMIT... IT'S LIKE GIVING AN INCH AND YOU WANT ONE FOOT. BY RIGHT, THOSE WHO PROTESTED BY THROWING STONES SHOULD BE THE ONES TO PAY.+

ASKED WHY ADEQUATE NOTICE WAS NOT GIVEN BEFORE TOLL WAS IMPOSED, HE SAID THE PUBLIC ALREADY KNEW ABOUT IT BUT THE REGRETFUL THING WAS THAT THEY ONLY PROTESTED AFTER IT WAS IMPLEMENTED.

HE REITERATED THE NEED FOR AMICABLE DISCUSSIONS TO AVOID ANY PROBLEMS.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER RESORTED TO HARSH MEASURES LIKE SENDING IN TANKS TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM WITH THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
1338MST 17 09 90