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MAHATHIR - ELECTION

BM

GUA MUSANG, SEPT 29 (BERNAMA) -- BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY HE WANTED ALL PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF +MISSING+ VOTERS IN KELANTAN, TO BE SETTLED BEFORE THE DATE FOR THE POLLS COULD BE FIXED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS WIDESPREAD OCCURANCE OF +MISSING+ VOTERS IN SEVERAL AREAS IN KELANTAN AND ALL STATES WERE ALSO FACING DIFFICULTY IN SELECTING THEIR CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION.

+I WANT ALL WORK TO BE COMPLETED, THEN I CAN MAKE A DECISION WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT TO LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE.

LAST NIGHT, HE MET STATE BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AND DIRECTED THEM TO LOCATE THE +MISSING+ VOTERS WITHIN ONE MONTH.

HE SAID THERE WERE AREAS WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS WERE +MISSING+ AND IN ONE AREA THE NUMBER WAS AS HIGH AS 4,000. -- MORE
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ASKED HOW THIS COULD COME ABOUT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO REGISTERED THE NAMES FOR CERTAIN REASONS.

HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VOTERS BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT BE LOCATED ALTHOUGH THEIR NAMES APPEARED ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS.

+WE KNOW THEY EXIST, WE WANT TO FIND THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE DISAPPEARED,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, HOWEVER, PREPARATIONS BEING MADE BY THE KELANTAN BARISAN NASIONAL WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND THEY WERE READY TO FACE THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID HIS MEETING WITH UMNO LIAISON CHIEFS IN THE STATE LAST WEEK WAS ONLY A PRELIMINARY ONE ON THE GENERAL ELECTION AND HAD YET TO BE COMPLETED.

HE ADDED THAT HIS MEETING WITH SEVERAL BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS THIS WEEK WAS TO OBTAIN AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO-DATE.

THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON THE IMPLICATIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM THE SELECTION OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES TO CONTEST IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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