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KUALA TERENGGANU, OCT 2 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO MEET IN A DAY OR TWO TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+WE HOPE THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE LIST OF CANDIDATES SUBMITTED BY THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES BEFORE THE FINAL SELECTION IS MADE,+ SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD MEET ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS THE SAME TOPIC.

IT WOULD CLOSELY STUDY A LIST OF THE PARTY'S POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, HE SAID.

+WE WILL DISCUSS THE CRITERIA TO BE USED IN MAKING THE FINAL CHOICE OF THE CANDIDATES,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

ASKED ABOUT THE CRITERIA, HE SAID: +WE WILL SELECT CANDIDATES WHO WILL ENSURE THE PARTY'S VICTORY.+ -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES WOULD ONLY BE DRAWN UP AFTER HE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE MENTERIS BESAR, STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND HEADS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

HE SAID THE MCA, GERAKAN AND MIC PRESIDENTS HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED THE LIST OF THEIR PARTY'S CANDIDATES TO HIM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD VISIT SABAH AND SARAWAK AS PART OF HIS NATIONWIDE TOUR TO MEET THE PEOPLE ON OCT 12 AND 13.

HE ALSO SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH A FINAL DECISION HAD NOT BEEN MADE, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE RULING PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) AND USNO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR OWN SYMBOLS IN THE ELECTION.

ON THE IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR TALIB, HE SAID A NAME HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG FOR HIS CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ON THIS SOON, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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