

D688

U E789 AAE
ELECTION-MAHATHIR R'R'R'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THAT THE RULING BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WILL BE RETURNED WITH A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.

SECURING A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY WAS CRUCIAL TO THE COALITION TO ENSURE A STRONG GOVERNMENT AND TO AVOID TURMOIL, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER CHAIRING A MEETING OF LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

FOLLOWING THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TOMORROW, HE WOULD ADVISE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS IN THE PENINSULAR STATES TO DISSOLVE THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES ON A COMMON DATE TO MAKE WAY FOR A SIMULTANEOUS GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO FIX THE NOMINATION AND POLLING DATES ACCORDING TO THE LAW AND GENERAL ELECTION RULES. -- MORE

1906MST 04 10 90

D705

U E799 AAE
ELECTION-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG SULTAN AZLAN SHAH BEFORE HIS MAJESTY LEFT FOR OVERSEAS.

THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG IS NOW IN BEIJING, CHINA, ON AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EXCEPT FOR MINOR CHANGES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER, THE EXISTING ALLOCATION OF SEATS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

BN HAD NOT FINALISED THE LIST OF CANDIDATES BUT HE HINTED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH CHANGE.

+WE DON'T SIMPLY DROP PEOPLE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF DROPPING THEM. IF ONE IS STILL CAPABLE, WE SHALL RETAIN HIM (AS CANDIDATE),+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS UP TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO DECIDE ON THE DURATION OF CAMPAIGNING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID:+ THE RULE SAYS THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD CAN BE SEVEN OR EIGHT DAYS OR UP TO SIX WEEKS.+ -- MORE

1936MST 04 10 90

D714

U E803 AAE
ELECTION-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS VISIT TO SABAH AND SARAWAK WAS STILL ON BUT NOT ON THE DATES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION, HE SAID WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT, THE TABLING OF THE 1991 NATIONAL BUDGET WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL PARLIAMENT RECONVENED AFTER THE POLLS.

+ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PREPARED A BUDGET, WHICH TO ME, WOULD MAKE THE GOVERNMENT POPULAR, WE HAVE TO POSTPONE TABLING IT AS THERE IS NO PARLIAMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID POSTPONING THE BUDGET WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL POSITION AS +WE HAVE ENOUGH MONEY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR+.

EXPENDITURE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TOO WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AS THE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION FOR THEM HAD BEEN APPROVED EARLIER, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES WERE BRIEFED ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION AND THEY ENDORSED THE BN MANIFESTO AT TODAY'S MEETING.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK GHAFAR BABA, WHO IS BN SECRETARY-GENERAL, UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, ALL COMPONENT PARTY PRESIDENTS EXCEPT FOR MIC AND GERAKAN CHIEFS, ATTENDED THE MEETING.

MIC PRESIDENT DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU WAS REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL, ENCIK G. VADIVELOO, AND GERAKAN PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK, BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ENCIK KERK CHOO TING.

-- BERNAMA

1952MST 04 10 90