

MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION

BM

PULAU PINANG, OCT 7 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID A LENGTHY CAMPAIGNING PERIOD COULD LEAD TO TENSION BECAUSE THE PEOPLE COULD NOT CONCERNTRATE ON OTHER MATTERS.

+IF TOO LONG, IT CAN CREATE TENSION. THE PEOPLE CANNOT CONCERNTRATE ON OTHER MATTERS...ONLY ELECTION,+ HE SAID TO REPORTERS AFTER HOLDING A MEETING WITH BALIK PULAU UMNO LEADERS HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THUS IT WOULD BE BETTER THAT THE ELECTION BE DONE OVER WITH WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON OPPOSITION'S CLAIM THAT THE 10 DAY CAMPAIGNING PERIOD WAS TOO SHORT AND ONLY PROVIDED ADVANTAGE TO BARISAN NASIONAL (BN).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED AS EXAMPLE THE 1969 GENERAL ELECTION WHERE THE CAMPAIGNING PERIOD WAS LONG, RESULTING IN RACIAL RIOTS. -- MORE.

1947MST 07 10 90

D838

U E292 AAE

MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION 2 PULAU PINANG

HE SAID +ELECTION CAMPAIGN+ HAD BEEN ON FOR MORE THAN A YEAR OR TWO AND AS A MATTER OF FACT THE OPPOSITION HAD STARTED CAMPAIGNING AS EARLY AS 1987.

+IF AFTER TWO YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING, THE PEOPLE STILL DO NOT GET THE MESSAGE...., THEN IT'S VERY DIFFICULT,+ HE SAID.

THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS FIXED NOMINATION FOR OCT 11 AND POLLING ON OCT 21 FOR STATES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIAN AND OCT 20 AND 21 FOR THE STATES OF SABAH AND SARAWAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HIT OUT AT THE OPPOSITION FOR DEMANDING THAT NEWSPAPERS ALSO PUBLISHED REPORTS ON THEM WHEN THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS LIKE THE +HARAKAH+ AND +ROCKET+ ONLY PUBLISHED REPORTS CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT.

HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE TWO NEWSPAPERS WERE WILLING TO GIVE FAIR COVERAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE.

2007MST 07 10 90

D842

U E296 AAE

MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION 3 PULAU PINANG

+IF THEY CAN'T, HOW CAN THEY ASK OTHERS?+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS TYPICAL OF THE OPPOSITION TO BURN THE NEWSPAPERS IF THEY DID NOT LIKE WHAT THEY READ.

ON THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS MERELY TO RESOLVE SEVERAL OUTSTANDING MATTERS WITHIN THE PARTY.

DESCRIBING THE MATTERS AS +FAMILY PROBLEM+, HE SAID UMNO AS A PARTY FULL OF DISCIPLINE WOULD RESOLVE ALL ITS PROBLEMS.

ON THE LIST OF BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES FOR PULAU PINANG, HE SAID IT WAS ALMOST FINALISED.

HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES TOMORROW PERTAINING TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION INCLUDING THOSE IN SABAH AND SARAWAK.

EDUCATION MINISTER ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM WAS ALSO PRESENT. --