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MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FORMATION OF +GAGASAN RAKYAT+ OR +PEOPLE' MIGHT+ -- AN OPPOSITION PACT TO CHALLENGE THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE GENERAL ELECTION -- WAS AS EXPECTED, TYPICAL OF THE OPPOSITION.

+WE HAVE EXPECTED THEM TO DO SO...SPEAKING IN TWO, THREE LANGUAGES TO OTHERS,+ HE SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING +KHIDMAT+ A MAGAZINE JOINTLY PRODUCED BY MAMPU AND BERITA PUBLISHING HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PAS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD TRIED TO HOODWINKED THE CHINESE BY DROPPING THE TERM +ISLAMIC STATE+ FROM ITS ELECTION MANIFESTO.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE PARTY, THE MATTER WAS ALSO REPORTED IN NON-CHINESE NEWSPAPERS AND THE PARTY TRIED TO DENY IT, HE SAID.

HE SAID IF SUCH A SITUATION PREVAILED AMONG THE OPPOSITION DURING THE ELECTION, THERE WOULD BE CONTRADICTIONS.

FIVE OPPOSITION PARTIES -- SEMANGAT 46, DAP, ALL MALAYSIA INDIAN PROGRESSIVE FRONT (IPF), PARTI RAKYAT MALAYSIA (PRM) AND MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY PARTY (MSP) -- SET UP THE +GAGASAN RAKYAT+ TODAY TO DENY THE BN VICTORY IN THE ELECTION. -- MORE.

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MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED ON SEVERAL MIC LEADERS BEING DROPPED FROM THE BN'S LINE-UP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN IN EVERY ELECTION.

+JUST AS IN THE PAST, WHEN THEY WERE NOMINATED AS CANDIDATES, OTHERS HAD TO BE DROPPED. THIS TIME AROUND IT'S THEIR TURN,+ HE SAID.

HE THANKED THEM FOR THE SERVICES THEY RENDERED AND APPRECIATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE WAY TO NEW FACES.

+I'M HAPPY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT IT,+ HE SAID.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID HAD NOT MET DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK S.SUBRAMANIAM WHO WAS UNHAPPY WHEN HE WAS NOT RENOMINATED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RESIGNED HIS POSTS AS MIC DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND THE PARTY'S FEDERAL TERRITORY CHIEF.

+I WILL MEET HIM LATER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR. -- BERNAMA.  
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