

MAHATHIR-PBS/USNO R'R'R'
BM

KOTA KINABALU, OCT 13 (BERNAMA) -- PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) AND USNO HAVE PLEDGED BEFORE BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY THAT THEY WOULD HELP EACH OTHER TO ENSURE A BN VICTORY IN NEXT WEEK'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THAT BOTH PARTIES HAD GIVEN THIS UNDERTAKING DURING HIS MEETING WITH PBS AND USNO LEADERS HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

AT THE MEETING, HE STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR BOTH PARTIES TO PRESERVE UNITY WITHIN THE BN IN FACING THE OCT 20-21 GENERAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BEFORE LEAVING FOR LABUAN.

+I HAVE STRESSED UPON THEM THAT BOTH PARTIES SHOULD KEEP ASIDE SELFISH INTERESTS AND INSTEAD CONSOLIDATE SUPPORT FOR THE BN,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

PBS PRESIDENT DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN AND USNO COUNTERPART TUN DATU HAJI MUSTAPHA DATU HARUN WHO WERE SEATED FLANKING THE PRIME MINISTER, NODDED IN AGREEMENT WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S STATEMENT.-- MORE

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO EXPEL EACH OTHER'S MEMBERS WHO STOOD AS INDEPENDENT CONTESTANTS AGAINST BN CANDIDATES IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN THE STATE.

+THE TWO PARTY PRESIDENTS ASSURED ME THAT THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES HAVE NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH PBS OR USNO AND THEY ALSO ASK ME TO ANNOUNCE ABOUT THIS,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF HIS VISIT HERE AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT BN CANDIDATES WOULD BE VICTORIOUS.

ON DEMANDS MADE BY THE RULING PARTY IN THE PBS MANIFESTO FOR THE STATE ELECTION LAST JULY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE RAISED NOW AS IT COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS BRIBERY.

+WE DON'T PLAN TO BUY VOTES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE BN WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT JUST WITH THE SEATS WON IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

+ BUT WE STILL NEED TO WIN IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AS THE BN'S OBJECTIVE IS TO SECURE A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO COMMENTED ON THE MANIFESTO OF OPPOSITION PARTIES ALLIED UNDER THE +PEOPLE'S MIGHT+ WHICH PROMISED TO + RETURN+ THE RIGHTS AND SABAH AND SARAWAK INCLUDING INCREASING OIL ROYALTIES AND THE RETURN OF LABUAN TO SABAH.

HE SAID:+ STRANGELY THIS IS ONLY RAISED ON THE EVE OF GENERAL ELECTION. IN FACT IT WAS HE (SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH) WHO FIXED THE QUANTUM OF THE ROYALTIES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES IN LABUAN TONIGHT AND ADDRESS A PEOPLE'S GATHERING AT THE LABUAN COMMUNITY HALL.

HE WAS ALSO SCHEDULED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC BANK (L) LTD BERHAD AND PUBLIC BANK TRUST CO. SDN BHD AT WISMA OCEANIC LABUAN. -- BERNAMA
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