

B E169 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PBS R'R'R'

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT DESCRIBED PARTI BERSATU SABAH'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL AS +A STAB IN THE BACK+ AND DELIBERATELY PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE MOVE WAS NOT UNEXPECTED BUT DID NOT ANTICIPATE IT AT THIS TIME.

+IT IS NOT TRUE IF I SAY I HAD NOT EXPECTED IT. ONLY THE TIMING IS DIFFERENT,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER ATTENDING THE CLOSING OF RTM'S +JANTUNG HATIKU+ TELETHON HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD EXPECTED THE PBS TO JOIN SEMANGAT 46 AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION IF THE BN DID NOT WIN OVERWHELMINGLY.

HE HOWEVER SAID THE PBS' MOVE DID NOT DEMORALISE THE BN IN FACING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

ON THE CONTRARY, ALL ITS COMPONENT PARTIES WERE MORE DETERMINED TO ENSURE VICTORY, HE SAID.-- MORE

0050MST 16 10 90

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MAHATHIR-PBS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD LEAVE IT TO THE PEOPLE OF SABAH TO THINK DEEPLY BEFORE SUPPORTING THE PBS MOVE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE PEOPLE IN THE PENINSULA WHETHER THEY SHOULD RECOGNISE THE PBS AS A NATIONAL POLICYMAKER AFTER ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BN.

+IT IS UP TO THE PEOPLE WHETHER THEY WANT TO BE AN INEFFECTIVE VOICE AS THEY ARE SPLIT AND RELY ON THE PBS TO DECIDE POLICIES INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PENINSULA,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE BELIEVED THE PBS MOVE STEMMED FROM ITS PACT WITH THE OPPOSITION BECAUSE PRIOR TO THIS, SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH HAD SAID THAT SABAH AND SARAWAK WERE +KINGMAKERS+.

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U E175 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PBS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT REGARD THE PBS MOVE AS BLACKMAIL.

HE SAID WHAT HE REGARDED AS +BLACKMAIL+ WAS PBS PRESIDENT AND SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI PAIRIN KITINGAN'S INSISTENCE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCEDE TO ALL HIS DEMANDS BY THE EVE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PRESSURE WAS DELIBERATELY APPLIED DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE PBS ACTION HAD MADE IT SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT FOR THE BN TO SECURE A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY BUT NOT TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID AT THE MOST THE OPPOSITION COULD WIN ALL 20 SEATS IN SABAH AS HE BELIEVED THE PBS HAD PURPOSELY FIELDDED SIX INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN CONSTITUENCIES CONTESTED BY USNO.-- MORE  
0118MST 16 10 90

R E177 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PBS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES CONTESTING IN THE SIX AREAS WERE PBS' OWN NOMINEES TO DENY USNO VICTORY AND ALSO STOP UMNO FROM WINNING IN LABUAN.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE BN COULD STILL WIN IN 160 OTHER SEATS IN THE PENINSULA AND SARAWAK. (THE DEWAN RAKYAT IS MADE UP OF 180 SEATS).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PBS MOVE DID NOT JEOPARDISE NATIONAL STABILITY BUT WOULD SOMEHOW AFFECT NATIONAL INTEGRATION EFFORTS.

HE BELIEVED THE PEOPLE OF SABAH HAD BEEN INDOCTRINATED BY THE PBS TO DESPISE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNDER THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, SABAH CANNOT LEAVE THE FEDERATION.-- BERNAMA  
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