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MAHATHIR-UMNO R'R'R'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 16 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TONIGHT ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UMNO IN SABAH WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. HE SAID DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA WOULD BE GOING TO SABAH TOMORROW TO ARRANGE THE SETTING UP OF UMNO IN THE STATE AND TO DISCUSS WITH USNO THE DECISION MADE BY THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WHICH MET AT SERI PERDANA HERE TONIGHT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE DECISION WAS AGREED TO BY USNO PRESIDENT TUN DATU MUSTAPHA DATU HARUN, WHO WAS CONTACTED IN SABAH, AND HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

HE SAID ENCIK GHAFAR WOULD ALSO HELP USNO AND THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO AGREE TO ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE PBS CANDIDATES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES BACKED BY THE PBS IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MOVE WAS NOT AIMED AT CHALLENGING USNO WHICH UMNO HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED BUT WAS BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD REQUESTED UMNO'S PRESENCE IN THE STATE.

+WE DID NOT WANT TO ENTER SABAH POLITICS SO WE HAD ADVISED THEM NOT TO SET UP UMNO THERE BUT WE FIND THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE THERE WHO DO NOT JOIN THE PBS AND ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING UMNO,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID UMNO WOULD NOT CONTEST AGAINST USNO BUT INSTEAD WOULD GIVE IT SUPPORT IN AREAS IT WAS CONTESTING BESIDES HELPING THE INDEPENDENTS OPPOSING THE PBS.

ASKED WHETHER UMNO HAD APPOINTED SOMEONE TO HEAD UMNO IN SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PARTY HAD A CANDIDATE IN MIND BUT HAD YET TO CONTACT HIM.

HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THE CANDIDATE HAD FAMILY TIES WITH THE PENINSULA AND ENCIK GHAFAR WOULD MEET HIM IN SABAH. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ENCIK GHAFAR WOULD ALSO ARRANGE FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE UMNO PRO TEM COMMITTEE IN SABAH IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE.

HE SAID THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF SETTING UP UMNO IN THE STATE WAS TO HELP THE USNO AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN OPPOSING THE PBS.

HE BELIEVED MANY PEOPLE IN SABAH WANTED UMNO TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE AND WAS CONFIDENT OF ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM THEM.

ASKED WHETHER UMNO WOULD ACCEPT PBS MEMBERS WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH THE PARTY'S MOVE TO PULL OUT FROM THE BN, HE SAID UMNO DID NOT STOP THEM FROM JOINING IT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE THE PBS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BN WAS A LAST MINUTE DECISION WHICH WAS NOT KNOWN EARLIER EVEN TO THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL, LET ALONE MOST OF ITS MEMBERS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CORDIAL RECEPTION GIVEN HIM BY PBS LEADERS DURING HIS VISIT TO SABAH RECENTLY WAS SINCERE EXCEPT BY CHIEF MINISTER AND PBS PRESIDENT DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN.

MEANWHILE, ENCIK GHAFAR SAID HE WOULD BE IN SABAH UNTIL POLLING DAY.

HE WOULD HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH TUN DATU MUSTAPHA BEFORE ACTIVATING THE UMNO ELECTION MACHINERY IN THE STATE.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ENCIK GHAFAR WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SABAH. THEY ARE DATUK KADIR SHEIKH FADZIL, HAJI RAHIM BAKAR AND ENCIK MOHAMAD NOOR MOHAMAD DOM. -- BERNAMA

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