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MAHATHIR-PAS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 16/ (BERNAMA) --/ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT WELCOMED THE POSSIBILITY OF TALKS BEING INITIATED BETWEEN UMNO AND PAS ON ESTABLISHING COOPERATION.

+IT IS GOOD...IF THEY WANT TO TALK WITH US,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD NEWSMEN, AFTER AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT SRI PERDANA HERE.

HE SAID UMNO HAD BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH PAS PREVIOUSLY AND THAT PARTY HAD BEEN WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH (SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT) IS THE ONE WHO CAUSED PAS TO LEAVE THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE OUSTING OF THE PAS GOVERNMENT IN KELANTAN,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT WAS SURPRISING THAT PAS WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND ALSO THE DAP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE PAS MANIFESTO FOR THIS GENERAL ELECTION WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO WHAT UMNO HAD BEEN DOING SUCH AS TO ASSIMILATE ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. -- MORE

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+ALSO PAS....FROM THE LOOKS OF ITS MANIFESTO, IT DOES NOT MENTION ANYMORE ABOUT (FORMING) AN ISLAMIC STATE. ONLY THE TITLE FOR ITS MANIFESTO IS 'DEVELOPING WITH ISLAM'....AND WE ALSO WANT TO ASSIMILATE ISLAMIC VALUES.+

+BUT WE HAVE TO SEE FIRST WHAT THE CONDITIONS ARE (FOR THE TALKS),+ HE SAID.

PAS ULAMA HEAD, HAJI NIK ABDUL AZIZ NIK MAT, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID EARLIER TODAY THAT THE PARTY WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH UMNO IF UMNO WAS TRULY SINCERE ABOUT ACCEPTING ISLAM.

HE HAD SAID THAT IF PAS COULD WORK WITH TENGKU RAZALEIGH WHO HAD SPEARHEADED THE PLAN TO TOPPLE THE PAS GOVERNMENT IN KELANTAN BACK IN 1978, THERE WAS NO REASON WHY PAS COULD NOT COOPERATE WITH UMNO NOW. -- BERNAMA

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