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MAHATHIR - PBS
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, OCT 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL HELP THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES CONTESTING AGAINST PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN THE STATE.

+WE WILL SEND OUR PEOPLE TO CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES OPPOSING THE PBS IN SABAH. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY WILL JOIN BN OR NOT IS A SMALL MATTER,+ HE SAID WHEN COMMENTING ON THE PBS WITHDRAWAL FROM BN.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED DOOR MEETING WITH FORMER ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND JOHOR BN CANDIDATES HERE, HE SAID BN WOULD NEVER AGAIN ACCEPT PBS AS A COMPONENT PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID BN WOULD NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE PBS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COALITION.

+IT IS ITS RIGHT... IF IT WANTS TO SUPPORT ANOTHER PARTY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID HE COULD READ THE PBS MOVE AND FELT IT WAS PLANNED BY THE PBS AND PARTI SEMANGAT 46.

SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH HAD MENTIONED IN HIS SPEECHES THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BUMIPUTERAS IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PBS HAD ALSO DECIDED NOT TO USE THE BN SYMBOL IN THE GENERAL ELECTION AND PBS PRESIDENT DATUK JOSPEH PAIRIN KITINGAN ASKED HIM TO CANCEL HIS VISIT TO SABAH.

HE BELIEVED THAT PBS WOULD SEND ITS PEOPLE TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE OPPOSITION IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

HE ALSO SAID HE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM PARTI BANSU DAYAK SARAWAK (PBDS) PRESIDENT DATUK LEO MOGGIE THAT THE PARTY WOULD REMAIN IN BN.

+I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM MCA PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR LING LING SIK, EXPRESSING THE MCA'S SUPPORT FOR BN,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BN COULD STILL SECURE A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT WITHOUT PBS BUT THE COALITION WOULD HAVE TO WORK HARD.

FOR JOHOR, HE FOUND NO PROBLEM IN THE ELECTION MACHINERY AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH BN'S SOLID STRENGTH IN THE STATE, IT WOULD MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. -- BERNAMA

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