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MAHATHIR-TELEVISION

BM

KOTA BAHARU, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTI SEMANGAT 46 AND PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) SHOWS THAT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH SUPPORTS THE SETTING UP OF A TELEVISION STATION TO PROPAGATE CHRISTIANITY IN THE STATE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

PBS PRESIDENT DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN HAD EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF WANTING TO SET UP THE TELEVISION STATION IN HIS ELECTION MANIFESTO AND SAID THAT THE SEMANGAT 46 MANIFESTO WAS SIMILAR TO HIS; THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

+THUS, TENGKU RAZALEIGH SUPPORTS THE SETTING UP OF THE TELEVISION STATION. SO, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE WHEN HE BECOMES PRIME MINISTER;+ HE TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH STATE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) CANDIDATES AT UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE.

HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON TODAY'S NEWSPAPER REPORT SAYING THAT DATUK PAIRIN'S SUPPORTERS WERE UNHAPPY WITH HIM FOR NOT FULFILLING HIS PROMISE TO SET UP A TELEVISION STATION IN SABAH TO PROPAGATE CHRISTIANITY. -- MORE
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THIS WAS PURPORTEDLY THE MAIN REASON FOR DATUK PAIRIN'S DECISION TO PULL HIS PARTY OUT OF BN.

THE SETTING UP OF THE TELEVISION STATION WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PROMISES MADE BY DATUK PAIRIN TO PARTY MEMBERS SINCE THE 1986 ELECTION, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

+WE HAVE TELEVISION BUT NOT FOR SUCH PURPOSE,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT, THEREFORE, PERMIT DATUK PAIRIN TO SET UP THE TELEVISION STATION.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF UMNO COOPERATING WITH PAS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO WELCOMED ANY PARTY WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH IT BUT PAS MUST FIRST SEVERE ITS TIES WITH SEMANGAT 46, DAP AND PBS.

HE FEARED THAT THE STATEMENT ON UMNO-PAS COOPERATION COULD CREATE CONFUSION AMONG UMNO SUPPORTERS. +IF THEY WANT TO COOPERATE THEY MUST SHOW PROOF... A CLEAR PROOF WOULD BE TO STOP COOPERATING WITH SEMANGAT 46, WITH DAP AND WITH PBS,+ HE SAID. --- MORE
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HE ALSO SAID THAT THE UMNO CONSTITUTION WOULD BE STUDIED AND IF IT WAS NECESSARY, THE UMNO GENERAL MEETING WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE PARTY TO SPREAD ITS WINGS TO SABAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT BN WOULD WIN IN KELANTAN AND FORM THE STATE GOVERNMENT BASED ON ITS PERFORMANCE TO-DATE.

+IN PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES TOO, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF WINNING MOST OF THE CONSTITUENCIES CONTESTED,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE CLOSED-DOOR MEETING, HE SAID HE EXPLAINED TO THE CANDIDATES THE IMPORTANCE OF A MAJOR VICTORY FOR UMNO AS THE BACKBONE OF THE RULING BN TO ENSURE A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

TWO FACTORS WERE NECESSARY FOR A STRONG GOVERNMENT -- A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY AND A STRONG BACKBONE PARTY, HE ADDED.

+UMNO IS PLAYING THIS ROLE. FOR THIS REASON, WE WANT A MAJOR VICTORY FOR UMNO TO ENSURE A STRONG GOVERNMENT. A STRONG GOVERNMENT IN TURN ENSURES SECURITY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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