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MAHATHIR - SABAH

BM

JITRA, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE +SABAH ISSUE+ FOLLOWING THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) PULL-OUT FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH +NORMAL PROCEDURES+

+WE WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE IN SABAH HOW GOOD IT IS FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN MALAYSIA SO THAT PAIRIN KITINGAN'S TALK WHICH HAD CAUSED THE SABAH PEOPLE TO HATE MALAYSIA WILL BE COUNTERED,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+ACTUALLY, THE SABAH PEOPLE HAD CHOSEN MALAYSIA BUT SINCE THE PBS FORMED THE GOVERNMENT, IT HAD POISONED THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE IN SABAH,+ HE SAID.

+EVEN WHEN THE PBS WON PREVIOUSLY IT ONLY WON BY A SMALL MARGIN BUT SINCE IT CAME TO POWER ITS EFFORTS HAD BEEN GEARED TOWARDS CREATING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SABAH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE IN THE PENINSULA,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HAVING LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICER DATUK SYED ZAIN SYED ABDULLAH.

ON THE GERAKAN'S PROPOSAL TO SPREAD ITS WINGS TO SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THAT'S A MATTER WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT AT PRESENT.+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - SABAH 2 JITRA

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT THE GERAKAN FROM DOING SO IF THE PARTY SO DESIRED.

+IF WE CAN SET UP UMNO IN SABAH, SO CAN THE GERAKAN...,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GERAKAN DID NOT WANT TO SET UP BRANCHES IN SABAH BEFORE BECAUSE THE PARTY HOPED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE PBS.

+IF THE GERAKAN WANTS TO SET UP BRANCHES IN SABAH NOW IT MEANS THE GERAKAN NO LONGER WANTS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE PBS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT BASED ON INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED MANY PAS SUPPORTERS, THOUGH NOT JOINING OR SUPPORTING UMNO, WOULD NOT COME OUT TO VOTE FOLLOWING THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46' CO-OPERATION WITH THE PBS.

-- BERNAMA

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