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MAHATHIR-MAJORITY R'R'R

BM

JITRA, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO CONCLUDED HIS NATIONWIDE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TODAY HAS ASSESSED THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL AGAIN SECURE A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY WIN IN TOMORROW'S GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD SCORE A LANDSLIDE VICTORY NATIONWIDE EXCEPT FOR + A LITTLE PROBLEM+ IN KELANTAN BECAUSE OF + EXTRAORDINARY FACTORS+ THERE.

DESPITE + THE EXTRAORDINARY FACTORS +, THE BN WAS CONFIDENT OF WINNING SEVERAL SEATS IN KELANTAN, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICER DATUK SYED ZAIN SYED ABDULLAH HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON KELANTAN'S +EXTRAORDINARY FACTORS+ BUT SAID THE BN'S VICTORY WAS NOW UP TO GOD'S WILL.

+WE HAVE MADE THE ASSESSMENT. TO US THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T GET BUT EVENTUALLY IT IS NOT FOR US TO DECIDE. IF GOD WANTS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, IT WILL. GOD WILLING IT WILL HAPPEN,+ HE SAID.-- MORE 1755MST 20 10 90

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MAHATHIR-MAJORITY 2 JITRA R'R'R

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED WHETHER RELIGION-RELATED ISSUES RAISED DURING CAMPAIGNING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD CAUSE TENSION AND HOW WOULD THE GOVERNMENT DEFUSE IT.

TO THIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: + THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RAISE RELIGIOUS ISSUES.+

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT STOP PEOPLE FROM EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS, HE SAID.

+DURING ELECTION TIME, WE TRY TO CURB THEM (RELIGIOUS ISSUES) BUT IN THE INTERIOR AREAS, RELIGION IS STILL AN ISSUE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TENSION CAUSED BY RELIGIOUS ISSUES COULD BE DEFUSED AFTER THE POLLS IF THE BN SECURED A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROBLEM MIGHT GET SERIOUS IF THE BN GOT ONLY A SLIM WIN, HE SAID.-- BERNAMA

1811MST 20 10 90