

D305

R E509 AAE
MAHATHIR - PULAU PINANG
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT UMNO WAS HAPPY THAT THE GERAKAN RAKYAT MALAYSIA PARTY HAS AGREED TO TAKE UP THE OFFER OF THE POST OF CHIEF MINISTER OF PULAU PINANG.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +I AM VERY HAPPY AND THIS MEANS THAT THE GERAKAN IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE BN.+

+EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE AT FIRST DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE PULAU PINANG RESIDENTS DID NOT VALUE THEIR SERVICES, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE POST, THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE.+

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A DINNER HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH BANK BUMIPUTRA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID UMNO WAS NOT GREEDY AND IT WANTED TO CO-OPERATE WITH ALL RACES IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
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D307

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MAHATHIR - PULAU PINANG 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID UMNO MEMBERS SUPPORTED ALL BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY WERE UMNO CANDIDATES OR THOSE FROM OTHER BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

ON THE QUESTION OF CREATING A DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER'S POST SPECIALLY FOR UMNO, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS LIKELY BUT IT WAS UP TO THE GERAKAN TO MAKE A DECISION.

UMNO HAD NO OBJECTIONS, HE ADDED.

ON THE FEDERAL CABINET LINE-UP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS SUITABLE CANDIDATES WITH LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

HE SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE WITHIN THIS WEEK.

APART FROM THOSE WHO WERE DROPPED OR DEFEATED IN THE ELECTION, THE OTHERS WERE LIKELY TO BE RETAINED, HE ADDED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - PULAU PINANG 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE KELANTAN PAS GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOT TO IGNORE THE STATE, HE SAID: +BEFORE THEY DID NOT SAY THAT.+

HE SAID THE BN GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER NEGLECTED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THAT IS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE GOVERNMENT LED BY THE BN.

ASKED WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE KELANTAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE MADE MUCH EASIER IF BOTH THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WERE FROM THE SAME PARTY.

ON ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG'S INTENTION TO STEP DOWN AS DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL, HE SAID IT WAS A DRAMA.

+LATER HIS FRIENDS WILL PERSUADE HIM TO STAY ON AND BASED ON HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT AND THAT OF HIS FRIENDS HE WILL AGAIN ASSUME THE POST.+ -- BERNAMA

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