

U E727 AAE
MAHATHIR-MINISTERS
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 26⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS ALL MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN HIS NEW CABINET LINE-UP TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTY WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

+MY ADVICE TO THE NEW FACES AND THE OLD FACES IS THE SAME ... THEY SHOULD GIVE THEIR FULL ATTENTION AND ENERGY TO THE TASK ENTRUSTED TO THEM,+ HE SAID AFTER ANNOUNCING THE FULL CABINET LIST TODAY.

HE SAID THAT THOSE APPOINTED SHOULD ALSO ABIDE BY THE CONSENSUS REACHED BY THE CABINET AND TO UPHOLD THE OATH AND PLEDGE MADE BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE.

HE SAID THAT THE OATH AND PLEDGE SHOULD BE UPHELD AS THEY WERE BOUND TO KEEP THE SECRECY OF THE CABINET AND WERE REQUIRED TO HAVE A COMMON STAND.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THERE WERE INCIDENTS OF MINISTERS ABUSING THE SECRECY IN PURSUIT OF THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST AND OF MINISTERS DEVIATING FROM THE COMMON STAND TAKEN BY THE CABINET, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SUCH INCIDENTS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN BECAUSE ONCE A DECISION WAS MADE BY THE CABINET EACH CABINET MEMBER SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECISION.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE FINAL DECISION REACHED BY THE CABINET AS A COMMON STAND.

HE ALSO SAID THAT ALL MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES SHOULD DECLARE THEIR ASSETS TO HIM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE WAS GIVING THEM AMPLE TIME TO DO SO TO PROVIDE THEM ADEQUATE TIME TO ASCERTAIN THEIR MOVABLE AND IMMOVEABLE ASSETS. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS UP TO THE RELEVANT AGENCIES, LIKE THE ANTI CORRUPTION AGENCY AND POLICE TO DETECT AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES INVOLVED IN MALPRACTICES.

HE SAID HE WOULD NOT CHANGE THE CABINET LINE-UP UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO BY CIRCUMSTANCES.

ASKED WHETHER THE RESULTS OF THE UMNO ELECTION NEXT MONTH WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE CABINET, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY REASON FOR THIS UNLESS HE WAS CHALLENGED AND DEFEATED IN THE CONTEST FOR THE UMNO PRESIDENCY OR THERE WAS A MAJOR UPSET IN THE UMNO CONTEST.

+IT'S NOT OUR PRACTICE TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET ACCORDING TO THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO APPOINT ONLY ONE MINISTER TO REPRESENT KELANTAN WAS BASED ON THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE

2142MST 26 10 90

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDED A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KELANTAN TO ACT AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL.

ASKED ON THE RESPONSE OF THE RULERS TOWARDS THE MENTERIS BESAR WHO HAD BEEN RETAINED IN THE VARIOUS STATES, HE SAID THE RULERS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE APPOINTMENTS AND ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION THEY HAD TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENTS MADE AS THEY WERE MAJORITY CHOICES. -- BERNAMA

2147MST 26 10 90