

D920

U E649 AAE
MAHATHIR-MANDELA
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CAPITALISED ON THE VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK NATIONALIST LEADER NELSON MANDELA IN THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WAS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED MANDELA TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION.

HE SAID THAT EVEN WITHOUT MANDELA'S PRESENCE, THE BN WAS STILL ABLE TO WIN.

+AS WE KNOW ... THIS IS INTERNAL POLITICS ... WE DID NOT TRY TO USE OUR GUEST FOR OUR OWN INTEREST,+ HE SAID AT A RALLY AT STADIUM NEGARA TO HONOUR MANDELA WHO IS ON A FOUR-DAY VISIT HERE.

+WITHOUT HELP ALSO (WE) WIN,+ HE SAID TO APPLAUSE FROM THOSE PRESENT.

-- MORE

2112MST 02 11 90

D921

U E650 AAE
MAHATHIR-MANDELA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS VERY PROUD THAT MALAYSIA WAS PLAYING HOST TO A +GIANT IN THE FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE+.

BEFORE THE ELECTION, OPPOSITION LEADER LIM KIT SIANG, HAD ALLEGED THAT THE BN WOULD USE MANDELA'S VISIT TO WIN VOTES.

MANDELA WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO VISIT MALAYSIA ON OCT 19 BUT IT WAS POSTPONED TO YESTERDAY. -- BERNAMA

2113MST 02 11 90