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Mahathir-Semangat

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ALOR SETAR, April 12¹ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad predicted today that Parti Semangat 46 would eventually ~~+sink+~~ as more and more of its leaders and members resign from the party to join UMNO. (P)

He said Semangat 46 would sink as it did not have the basis for its struggle except to split the unity of the Malays.

+They have realised now that their struggle was worthless... they lost everywhere except in Kelantan,+ he told reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, are here to break fast with the people in Tunjang.

He said UMNO would consider the possibility of allowing former Semangat 46 members to recontest state seats on UMNO tickets should there be by-elections. -- more

♥12/04/19-44MST

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Mahathir-Semangat 2 Alor Setar

+If they join UMNO, we will consider... we are not selfish,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is UMNO President, said UMNO would welcome Semangat 46 members who wished to rejoin UMNO.

+I think they have realised their mistake... now they want to return and we welcome them,+ he added.

He welcomed the action of Kedah Semangat 46 Chairman, Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari, who quit the party to rejoin UMNO.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff, and his wife, Datin Seri Hajah Azizah Abdul Hamid, were at the airport to welcome Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife. -- Bernama

♥12/04/19-45MST