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RULERS' DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED ON JULY 4

Mahathir-Rulers

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 8, (Bernama) -- The draft of the Rulers' Declaration has been accepted by the Malay Rulers and the declaration will be signed on July 4, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The contents of the declaration would be announced later, he told a press conference after an Umno Supreme Council meeting at the Umno headquarters here.

The draft would also be presented to the Cabinet for its views, he added.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said the rulers had agreed to the draft and signing the declaration was a mere formality.

Asked if the draft would be further amended if the Rulers so requested, he said the draft was agreed to by the Rulers after six rounds of discussions. -- more

▼08/06/17-04MST

CNS1139

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At a meeting between an Umno Supreme Council delegation and the Malay Rulers on April 25, their highnesses generally agreed to the fundamentals of the draft presented to them but asked for certain terms and sentences to be +fine-tuned+.

The Supreme Council, at its meeting on April 17, had studied and amended a draft of the Rulers' Code of Ethics prepared by a seven-member team of the council before deciding to present it to the Rulers at the April 25 meeting.

The draft came about after all the Supreme Council members except the President and Deputy President had an audience with the Rulers on Feb 25, during which they presented to their highnesses an Umno memorandum on the involvement of the palace in politics, administration and business.

The draft was subsequently called the Rulers' Declaration because it would be consented to by the Rulers and would no longer be a government or Umno Supreme Council document.

Dr Mahathir said apart from discussing the declaration in detail, today's meeting also delved into Sabah Umno and preparations for a possible state election in Sabah. -- more

▼08/06/17-43MST

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Asked if the discussion was prompted by speculation of an impending snap poll in Sabah, Dr Mahathir said he did not know when the election would be held but said Umno would be prepared for it.

+We do not know as this will be determined by the Sabah government. If it (the Sabah government) decides to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly, an election will have to be held within 60 days,+ he added.

He expressed confidence that the Barisan Nasional could win the Sabah election.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council also found that the delegates' meeting of the Gaya Umno division in Sabah was valid and there was no need for it to hold the meeting again. -- Bernama

▼08/06/17-45MST