

25 JUN 2002

Mohamed-statement

PRESS STATEMENT OF BARISAN NASIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL ON DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25 (Bernama) -- Following is the press statement of the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council which was read out by its secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat at a news conference after a special meeting here today:

"The special meeting of the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council was convened today to accept the report on the meeting between YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the Umno President and also Barisan Nasional Chairman, with senior leaders in Umno on June 23, 2002 at 9am at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

"The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council, having received the report and discussed matters arising, took note of the following:

"1. The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council received the report from Umno Deputy President who is also Barisan Nasional Deputy Chairman in which YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad appreciates the confidence given to him by the Barisan Nasional component parties and the people to continue leading the Barisan Nasional and the country. However, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has decided that he will retire and relinquish all his posts in Umno, Barisan Nasional and the Government.

"2. YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has confirmed YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi as his successor.

"3. YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has decided that his resignations will take place after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit that will take place from 24 until 25 October 2003.

"4. In the period until the said OIC Summit, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will continue to hold all his posts in Umno, Barisan Nasional and the Government including the post of Minister of Finance.

"5. In the period until the said OIC Summit, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will go on leave for two months during which time YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi will be appointed Acting President of Umno and Acting Prime Minister. YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi will also be Acting Chairman of Barisan Nasional and Acting Prime Minister on any other occasion that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be on leave during the said period.

"6. YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has explained that the date of his resignations has been decided upon to ensure a smooth and orderly transition of power and responsibilities, and also to fulfill outstanding commitments such as chairing the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit which will be held on 24 and 25 February 2003 and the OIC Summit.

"7. YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has also informed that after his resignations from all posts in Umno, Barisan Nasional and the Government, he will continue to contribute his energy and ideas for the benefit of Barisan Nasional and the country.

"So the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council, having heard and accepted the explanations, made the following decisions:

"1. The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council respects and accepts YAB Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad's intention to retire as mentioned above.

"2. Barisan Nasional Supreme Council also urges Barisan Nasional component parties to respect and accept YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's intention to resign. This is the time for Barisan Nasional component parties to be united in strengthening the Barisan Nasional in facing challenges in our collective struggle for the community, religion

and country.

"3. The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council welcomes and supports fully YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion appointing YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi as Acting Prime Minister and Acting Chairman of the Barisan Nasional and the Barisan Nasional will give full and undivided support to him during the period.

"4. The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council has also decided to give full confidence and support to YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi as successor to YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he retires."

-- BERNAMA

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