

ALOR STAR, JUNE 20 (BERNAMA) <sup>1971</sup> FORMER UMNO  
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND MP, DR.  
MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, SAID TODAY THAT THE PRESENT GOVERN-  
MENT UNDER TUN ABDUL RAZAK WAS MORE PRAGMATIC AND  
PRACTICAL. +

HE TOLD BERNAMA IN AN INTERVIEW: +I APPRECIATE THE  
SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY  
TODAY IN THAT THEY PLACE MORE ATTENTION ON PUBLIC OPINION  
FOR PUBLIC INTEREST. +

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS WATCHING THE TREND OF POLITICAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTS IN UMNO  
ITSELF.

HE ADDED THAT +THERE IS EVERY POSSIBILITY OF MY  
REJOINING THE PARTY+ ALTHOUGH AT THE MOMENT HE HAD  
STILL NOT MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO REJOIN UMNO.

HE, HOWEVER, CONFIRMED THAT THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN  
OF THE UMNO YOUTH SECTION AND MENTRI BESAR OF SELANGOR,  
DATO HAJI HARUN BIN HAJI IDRIS, HAD +HINTED+ THAT  
HE (DATO HARUN) WOULD LIKE HIM TO COME BACK  
TO THE PARTY. 36

EVEN IF HE DID NOT REJOIN THE PARTY HE WOULD ALWAYS  
BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE HIS IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS IF THEY  
WERE NEEDED BY THE PARTY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE.  
1230/ZCM

ASKED WHY HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN A PMIP RALLY FOR THE  
KAPAR BY-ELECTION IN SELANGOR IN APRIL, DR. MAHATHIR  
SAID: +BORROWING A PMIP PLATFORM WAS THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY  
FOR ME TO SPEAK SINCE I WAS DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY OF  
SPEAKING AT ANY OTHER FORUM.

+IT IS ALSO BECAUSE I AM A FREE AGENT AND HAVE NO  
ATTACHMENT TO ANY PARTY.+ -- BERNAMA. 1233/ZCM