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BERNAMA FEATURE (FOR PUBLICATION ON OR AFTER WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25)

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THE NEW UMNO LEADERSHIP  
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UMNO 1

THE NOT UNEXPECTED RE-ELECTION TRIUMPH OF ENCIK ABDUL GHAFAR BABA AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AS UMNO VICE-PRESIDENTS ALONG WITH THE ELEVATION OF DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TO THEIR RANKS ARE WITHOUT DOUBT THE HIGH POINTS OF THE 26TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

AFTER THE UNOPPOSED CONFIRMATION OF DATO HUSSEIN ONN AS THE UNDISPUTED DEPUTY OF PARTY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL RAZAK, THEIR ELECTION RE-ESTABLISHES THE LINKS OF LEADERSHIP OF MALAYSIA'S PREMIER POLITICAL PARTY WHICH WERE SOMEWHAT UNLINKED BY THE DEMISE OF TUN ISMAIL.

THE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF ENCIK GHAFAR AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH CANNOT BE INTERPRETED AS ANYTHING BUT SOLID ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRUST IN THEM.

WHEN NEXT ENCIK GHAFAR IS CALLED AGAIN TO ACT AS PRIME MINISTER, HE WILL DO SO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS THE TRUST NOT ONLY OF TUN RAZAK, BUT ALSO OF UMNO'S RANK AND FILE.

FOR TENGKU RAZALEIGH, HIS PERFORMANCE IS ENDORSEMENT OF ANOTHER KIND. - BERNAMA FEATURE MORE 0800/HS

02:

UMNO 2 (BERNAMA FEATURE)

IT ENDORSES THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S CHOICE OF HIM TO FILL THE VACANCY CAUSED BY DATO HUSSEIN'S ELEVATION TO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY, AND HIS ACTIONS IN RESPECT OF PERNAS AND PETRONAS.

DR. MAHATHIR'S RISE VINDICATES HIS CONVICTIONS AS TO THE DIRECTIONS UMNO SHOULD TAKE, AND GIVES STATURE AND ATTENTION TO A CONTROVERSIAL, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, MISUNDERSTOOD, POLITICIAN.

ENCIK GHAFAR, TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DR. MAHATHIR COULD NOT BE MORE DIFFERENT IN THEIR BACKGROUNDS.

ENCIK GHAFAR IS THE PRODUCT OF PURE MALAY EDUCATION, TENGKU RAZALEIGH IS A YOUNG PROGRESSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN UPLIFTING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE MALAYS, DR. MAHATHIR IS A CRUSADER AND PROFESSIONAL.

THESE CHOICES OF THE 26TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE ALSO SEEN BY MANY DELEGATES TO MEET WITH THE APPROVAL OF TUN RAZAK. - BERNAMA FEATURE MORE 0802/HS

03:

UMNO 3 (BERNAMA FEATURE)

THE THREE WERE THE ONLY ONES HE MENTIONED IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, AND EVERYTIME HE DID SO, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRASSROOTS VOICED THEIR APPROVAL.

THE ELECTION OF THE THREE NOT ONLY MARKS CONTINUITY IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, BUT ENCIK GHAFAR, TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DR. MAHATHIR WILL, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR DIFFERENT AGES, PROVIDE THE PHYSICAL CONTINUITY.

THEIR SUCCESS SHOULD ALSO SOOTH THE UNEASINESS OF SOME DELEGATES WHO WANTED TO SEE THE PERPETRATION OF SOME KIND OF PROVINCIAL BALANCE IN THE TOP LEADERSHIP.

TO THEM, THE PRESENCE OF TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DR. MAHATHIR WILL PROVIDE THE EASTERN-NORTHERN BALANCE TO THE SOUTHERN-WESTERN PRESENCE OF DATO HUSSEIN AND ENCIK GHAFAR, WITH TUN RAZAK BEING THE PIVOTAL CENTRAL PRESENCE. - BERNAMA FEATURE MORE 0803/HS

A POINT NOT OVERLOOKED BY THE DELEGATES WAS THE NEED TO GIVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE POLICY TO THOSE ALREADY HAVING THE POWER.

WHILE TAN SRI SYED JAAFAR ALBAR STRUCK A CHORD AMONG THE DELEGATES WITH HIS VIEWS THAT HAVING A NON-GOVERNMENT MAN (HIMSELF) AS VICE-PRESIDENT WILL PROVIDE AN OUTSIDE CHECK ON THE TOP LEADERSHIP, THE DELEGATES SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF POLICY-MAKER AND POLICY-EXECUTOR BEING ONE AND THE SAME.

THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR THE 20 ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL ALSO REFLECTED THIS BELIEF.

AMONG THE 20 ELECTED, SIX ARE MINISTERS, FIVE DEPUTY MINISTERS, FIVE MENTRIS BESAR AND ONE CHIEF MINISTER. - BERNAMA FEATURE SERVICE 0806/HS