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MAHATHIR •  
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ALOR STAR, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO BE WARY OF THE NATION'S ENEMIES+ WHO WERE STILL STRIVING TO CREATE COMMUNAL FRICTION.

HE SAID THESE UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS WERE NOT HAPPY TO SEE MALAYSIANS OF VARIOUS ORIGINS AND COMMUNITIES LIVE IN PEACE.

THEY ALSO FELT ENVIOUS OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE COUNTRY IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, WAS SPEAKING TO THOUSANDS OF BARISAN NASIONAL SUPPORTERS ON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE KEPALA BATAS AIRPORT NEAR HERE ON A ONE-DAY VISIT TO EDDAH.

DR. MAHATHIR WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DR. SITI HASMAH HAJI ALI, WAS GIVEN A CEREMONIAL WELCOME AS THE VISIT WAS THE MINISTER'S FIRST TO THE STATE AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. — BERNAMA MORE 1445/ZCM

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HE WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY MENTRI BESAR DATO' SRI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN. ALSO PRESENT WERE THE DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER, DATUK HAJI ABU BAKAR UMAR, AND LEADERS OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID CERTAIN PEOPLE ALLEGED THAT THE NEW CABINET LINE-UP ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER DATO' HUSSEIN ONN DID NOT FULLY REFLECT THE RACIAL COMPOSITION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THEY ALLEGED THAT CERTAIN LEADERS IN THE NEW CABINET WERE +ULTRA-NATIONALS AND EXTREMISTS+ WHO DID NOT RECEIVED THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

DR. MAHATHIR WARNED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY THESE BASELESS AND WILD ALLEGATIONS.

THEY SHOULD INSTEAD STRIVE TO MAINTAIN HARMONY AND RACIAL SOLIDARITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT MAINTAIN THE PREVALENT PEACE AND HARMONY THE +ENEMIES+ WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISRUPT SOLIDARITY. — BERNAMA MORE 1455/ZCM

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DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WORKED TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC POSITION WHICH HAD NOT BEEN BALANCED AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ALL FIELDS.

HE URGED MUSLIM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY TODAY TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY AND GOODWILL AMONG THEMSELVES.

ANY ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT MUSLIM SOLIDARITY SHOULD BE THWARTED, HE SAID.

EARLIER, IN WELCOMING DR. MAHATHIR, DATO' SRI SYED AHMAD PLEDGED THAT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE KEDAH AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. MAHATHIR AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES IN KEDAH WOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR MACHINERY TO ENSURE A STABLE GOVERNMENT.

THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN LINED THE ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE MENTRI BESAR'S RESIDENCE AND CHEERED DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE AND WAVED FLAGS.

DR. MAHATHIR LATER HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SULTAN OF KEDAH AT THE ISTANA ANAK BUMIT. — BERNAMA 1508/ZCM

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