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MAHATHIR-UMNO

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IPOH, JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) --DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, URGED UMNO MEMBERS TODAY TO REFRAIN FROM SEEKING POPULARITY AT THE EXPENSE OF +THROWING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE WIND.+ HE SAID THEY COULD EXPLAIN WHY OTHER MATTERS WERE GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITY THAN THEIR CONSTITUENTS' DEMANDS, EVEN IF THIS MEANT RISKING THEIR POPULARITY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS TO PERAK UMNO DIVISIONAL LEADERS HERE. HE SAID AS A NATIONAL POLITICAL BODY, UMNO MUST BE RESPONSIBLE AND COULD NOT JUST PLAY TO THE GALLERY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CONCEPT OF A PARTY RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT WAS THAT THE PARTY'S PRINCIPLES WERE THE GOVERNMENT'S GUIDELINES. +IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERY UMNO MEMBER HAS A SAY IN RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT AND CAN EXPECT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION JUST BECAUSE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE RULING PARTY+.

TURNING TO SECURITY, DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE MALAYSIAN SECURITY FORCES AS AN +ELITE FORCE+, ACKNOWLEDGED BY FOREIGNERS AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE NOT TO LOWER THE MORALE OF THESE BRAVE MEN BY CONDONING OR EVEN SPREADING RUMOURS ABOUT SECURITY INCIDENTS.

HE ALSO PRAISED MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK. --BERNAMA 1850/BY