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NO74: (F)  
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SEREMBAN, JULY 7 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS STRESSED THAT AS LONG AS THE UNIQUE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION PIONEERED BY UMNO AND MCA IN 1951 IS MAINTAINED, THE COUNTRY'S SUCCESSES IN FUTURE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUARANTEED.

UMNO AND MCA SHOULD BE PROUD AS THE SYSTEM HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL AND HAS DEVELOPED IN A SHORT TEST PERIOD.

SPEAKING AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR WISMA MCA IN JALAN LEMON HERE TODAY, HE ADDED THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, OTHERWISE IT MIGHT BECOME WEAK.

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH VARIOUS RACES BUT IN MALAYSIA A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT IN POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE RACES HAD BEEN TRIED AND PROVEN SUCCESSFUL.

ALTHOUGH THE RACES STILL HELD FIRMLY TO THEIR OWN IDENTITIES AND SET UP THEIR OWN POLITICAL PARTIES, THEY WERE STILL ABLE TO COOPERATE AND RULE THE COUNTRY TOGETHER SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

--- BERNAMA MORE 1717/A1

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION EXISTED NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS DEMANDED BY DEMOCRACY BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE VARIOUS RACES GENUINELY DESIRED IT FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HELD THE MAJORITY VOTE, THE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION CONTINUED TO EXPAND WITH THE ADMISSION OF USNO, BERJAYA AND SNAP INTO BARISAN NASIONAL RECENTLY, HE ADDED.

WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL FRAMEWORK, PARTY LEADERS COULD PLAN AND DISCUSS MATTERS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS, PARTY LEADERS SHOULD CLARIFY TO ORDINARY MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC THE PURPOSE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE EFFORTS TO GAIN THEIR CONFIDENCE.

FOR EXAMPLE, BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. THEY SHOULD IN TURN EXPLAIN IT TO MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC SO THEY COULD UNDERSTAND IT. --- BERNAMA MORE 1720/A1

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SENIOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DATUK TAHA TALIB, REPRESENTING THE MENTRI BESAR, REQUESTED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FULL ATTENTION AND MORE AID TO THE LESS DEVELOPED STATES.

THE STATE MCA LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DATUK WONG SENG CHOW, SAID THE NEW \$500,000 BUILDING WOULD BE COMPLETED IN NINE MONTHS.

ALSO PRESENT WAS STATE SECRETARY, ENCIK MOHAMED YUSOF LASIM. --- BERNAMA 1722/A1