

MAHATHIR-CEYLONESE

PETALING JAYA, OCT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY URGED COMMUNAL-BASED POLITICAL AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO PLACE THE COMMON DESTINY OF THE NATION ABOVE SECTIONAL INTERESTS.

+ALL OF US SHOULD CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS AND ENERGIES IN SOLVING NATIONAL ISSUES RATHER THAN BEING INVOLVED IN SECTIONAL OR GROUP SQUABBLES JUST FOR THE SAKE OF A FEW. THE NATION MUST COME FIRST IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE,+ HE SAID.

SUCH POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS HAD A SPECIFIC ROLE IN INCULCATING AMONG THEIR MEMBERS A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS' BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY AT JAYAPURI HOTEL.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT AS LONG AS THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE PARTIES WAS IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO UNDERSTOOD WHERE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE LAY, FEELINGS OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GROUPS WOULD NOT ARISE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1458/A1

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WARNED THAT NARROW-MINDEDNESS RESULTING FROM CHAMPIONING CAUSES BASED ON THE FEELINGS OR EMOTIONS OF JUST ONE GROUP COULD LEAD TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF INSTABILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE TASK OF RESTRUCTURING SOCIETY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTIES OF THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY RICH AND WELL-ESTABLISHED.

+NOR DO WE INTEND TO IGNORE THE RIGHTS GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO RESTRUCTURE. WE INTEND TO ACHIEVE OUR TARGETS THROUGH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICIES WE FOLLOW BY ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY.+

BUT IT WAS INEVITABLE, HE SAID, THAT IN ANY EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY THERE WOULD BE THOSE WHO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE PRIVILEGES AND POSITION THEY HAD BEFORE BECAUSE +EQUALITY COULD NOT BE CREATED FROM INEQUALITY IF NO ONE WANTED TO GIVE UP

ANYTHING.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1505/A1

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+IT WAS UP TO THOSE WHO WOULD LOSE SLIGHTLY IN THE RESTRUCTURING PROCESS TO ACCEPT THIS INEVITABILITY.+

HE SAID THE NATION FACED INNUMERABLE AND INCREASING CHALLENGES IN THE EFFORT TO BUILD A BETTER SOCIETY AND THE NATION'S ENEMIES WERE ONLY TOO EAGER TO SEE THE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES FAIL.

+IT IS MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY FOR US TO BE VERY VIGILANT AND TO AVOID FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF COMMUNAL DISSENSION LAID BY OUR ENEMIES, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNISTS,+ DR. MAHATHIR WARNED.

EARLIER, DR. MAHATHIR WAS PRESENTED TWO CHEQUES BY MCC PRESIDENT SEN. DR. C. SINNADURAI -- \$620 FOR THE NATIONAL MONUMENT RESTORATION FUND AND \$1,001 FOR THE TUN RAZAK FOUNDATION.

DR. SINNADURAI, WHO WAS RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS PRESIDENT FOR ANOTHER TWO-YEAR TERM, PLEDGED THE LOYALTY OF MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE TO KING AND COUNTRY AND SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. -- BERNAMA 1509/A1

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