

MAHATHIR - DINNER

BM

PENANG, OCT. 22 (BERNAMA) -- MAHATHIR MOHAMED IS CONFIDENT TONIGHT THAT THE PEOPLE OF ALL RACES IN THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER DESPITE EFFORTS OF SOME GROUPS TO CREATE DISUNITY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE GROUPS RESORTED TO VARIOUS DEVICES TO BRING ABOUT CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO CRITICISED SOME FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO WERE FOND OF SENSATIONALISING ANY RACIAL TENSION IN MALAYSIA.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE KOTA UMNO BRANCH HERE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT THE COUNTRY ON PAR WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DESPITE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE ENEMIES.

-- BERNAMA MORE 2242/ZCM

HE SAID IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT TO BRING THE COUNTRY FURTHER TOWARDS PROGRESS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD SETTLE MISUNDERSTANDING THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AND NOT ANIMOSITY.

HE SAID PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN WAS WILLING TO TALK WITH ANY GROUP IN SOLVING PROBLEMS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE DINNER WERE PENANG CHIEF MINISTER DR. LIM CHONG EU AND STATE BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS. -- BERNAMA 2300/ZCM