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1977

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 11 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REJECTED A SUGGESTION TONIGHT THAT UMNO PARTY OFFICIALS BE COMPELLED TO DISCLOSE THEIR ASSETS.

HE SAID PARTY OFFICIALS WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE MEASURE WOULD ALSO NOT REMOVE THE PROBLEM OF UMNO MEMBERS SEEKING PERSONAL BENEFITS THROUGH THE PARTY.

SPEAKING IN A PRE-RECORDED INTERVIEW ON TV MALAYSIA'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME, RANCANGAN 30 MINIT, DR. MAHATHIR PROPOSED THAT UMNO MEMBERS SUBSCRIBED \$10 EACH PER YEAR TO PARTY FUNDS IN ORDER TO AVOID DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE DONORS.

WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 400,000, UMNO COULD COLLECT \$4 MILLION A YEAR OR \$20 MILLION IN FIVE YEARS, HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED PARTY MEMBERS WERE WILLING TO MAKE THIS CONTRIBUTION SINCE THEY HAD BENEFITED FROM THE SERVICES OF UMNO. -- BERNAMA MORE 0005/A1

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RELIANCE ON OUTSIDE DONORS SUCH AS COMPANIES WAS UNSATISFACTORY SINCE THE DONORS CERTAINLY SOUGHT RETURNS FROM THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE FREEMASON ORGANISATION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID NO ONE HAD SUPPLIED HIM EVIDENCE THAT IT HAD CAUSED MALAYS TO FAIL IN ANY FIELD OF ENTERPRISE.

ON THE POSITION OF FORMER SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS, HE SAID HIS REHABILITATION WAS SUBJECT TO VARIOUS FACTORS.

REHABILITATION OF DATUK HARUN WAS GOVERNED BY THE SITUATION, THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY AND CREDIBILITY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE QUESTION WAS NOT DATUK HARUN'S REHABILITATION BUT THE METHOD OF DOING IT. -- BERNAMA 0013/A1