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TAMPIN, MAY 22 (BERNAMA)--DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO STRENGTHEN TIES AMONG THEMSELVES AND TO ADHERE TO A STRICT PERSONAL DISCIPLINE.

THIS WAS BECAUSE UMNO REPRESENTED THE BACK-BONE OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE TAMPIN UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING 52 KM FROM HERE TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT CHANGES WITHIN THE PARTY WERE BEING WATCHED OVER CLOSELY BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH INVESTMENTS HERE.

AS SUCH, EACH MEMBER SHOULD STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY'S POSITION TO ENSURE A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE DEPUTY NATIONAL UMNO PRESIDENT, POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE SOME UMNO MEMBERS WHO FAILED TO ACHIEVE LEADERSHIP STATUS AND RETALIATED BY ACTING LIKE THEY BELONGED TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. --BERNAMA MORE 1600/MD

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HE STRESSED THAT ANY GROUSES WHICH MEMBERS WISHED TO VOICE COULD BE HEARD THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS SUCH AS GENERAL MEETINGS.

EARLIER, NEGRI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR, DATUK MANSOR OTHMAN, SAID SINCE 1969, 200,000 ACRES OF LAND HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY FELDA IN THE STATE TO ASSIST THE LAND-LESS.

SENIOR EXCO MEMBER, DATUK TAHA TALIB, SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO SET UP NEW TOWNSHIPS AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN CHEMBONG, GEMENCHEH AND GEMAS IN AN EFFORT TO UPLIFT THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THOSE IN THE AREAS.

DATUK TAHA, WHO IS ALSO THE DIVISIONAL HEAD, URGED UMNO'S RELIGIOUS BUREAUS TO INTENSIFY THEIR MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY. --BERNAMA 1605/MD