

MAHATHIR - VOTERS
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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 26 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED MALAYSIA TODAY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REGISTERING AS VOTERS TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED WELL-BEING.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT EVERY MALAY WHO WAS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A VOTER SHOULD REGISTER SO THAT HE COULD EXERCISE HIS RIGHT TO VOTE.

+THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THEIR REGISTRATIONS WERE STILL VALID+, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING A SPECIAL INFORMATION COURSE ON VOTER REGISTRATION FOR UMNO DIVISION SECRETARIES AT RUMAH UMNO HERE.

HE SAID THAT THE RIGHT TO VOTE WAS THE STRONGEST WEAPON IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY SUCH AS MALAYSIA.

IF THE MALAYS DO NOT WANT TO EXERCISE THIS RIGHT AND IF THEIR FUTURE BECOMES UNCERTAIN, IT IS THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1223/ZCM

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THOSE WHO VOTED FOR UMNO WERE MALAYS. AND IF THEY DID NOT WANT TO VOTE HOW WAS UMNO TO STRIVE FOR THEIR FUTURE, HE ASKED.

+THUS EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD REALISE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THEM TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT UMNO AS A POLITICAL BODY MUST BE SURE OF ITS ELECTORAL SUPPORT.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO GENERAL ELECTION, UMNO MUST ENSURE THAT THOSE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME VOTERS REGISTERED THEMSELVES AS SUCH.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME VOTERS INCREASED BY TWO PER CENT EACH YEAR, MANY COULD NOT EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE PAST BECAUSE THEY DID NOT REGISTER AS VOTERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1233/ZCM

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ON THE COURSE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS TO ACQUAINT THE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE WAYS OF PREPARING FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. THE COURSE WAS ALSO TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT UMNO WOULD CARRY OUT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CAMPAIGN TO REGISTER VOTERS.

+BECAUSE THE ELECTION COMMISSION DID NOT APPOINT OFFICERS FOR THIS JOB THIS YEAR, IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTY TO ASSIST IN THE REGISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY COVERING BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1247/ZCM

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ALSO PRESENT WAS UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SENU ABDUL RAHMAN.

UMNO'S INFORMATION CHIEF HAJI SULAIMAN PALESTIN AND UMNO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENCIK ADIB ADAM WERE AMONG THE SPEAKERS. -- BERNAMA 1257/ZCM