

NO09 (F)
MAHATHIR - YOUTH
RM

(17)

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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 30 (BERNAMA) - UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SPOKE TODAY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG PARTY MEMBERS AND REMINDED THAT DISUNITY AMONG THEM COULD CAUSE THE MALAYS TO REVERT TO THEIR POSITION IN THE PAST.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT A SPLIT IN THEIR UNITY COULD CAUSE THE MALAYS TO FORM FACTIONS, BECOME DISUNITED, WEAK AND BE EXPLOITED AND OPPRESSED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF A +NEW TYPE OF ENEMY+ WHO PRETENDED TO BE SUPPORTERS OF UMNO. AS SUCH, UMNO MEMBERS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THEIR STAND. SOME MEMBERS EVEN DID NOT CONSIDER THEM AS ENEMIES BUT AS SUPPORTERS +OUTSIDE THE FENCE.+

OPENING THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO ASSEMBLIES SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE. HE SAID THAT AT THE BEGINNING UMNO MEMBERS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SUPPORT OF THE +NEW TYPE OF ENEMY.+ - BERNAMA MORE 1103/PW

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NO10 (F)
MAHATHIR-YOUTH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

NOW, SOME UMNO MEMBERS HAD BECOME SUPPORTERS OF THESE PEOPLE WHO CRITICISED UMNO AND THIS HAD ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS A RESULT OF THIS UMNO HAD BECOME AN +ARENA FOR VERBAL EXCHANGES+ AND WAS NO LONGER LIKE UMNO BEFORE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1115/SZ

NO13 (F)
MAHATHIR-YOUTH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

WHEN THIS HAPPENED, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TRIED TO MAKE USE OF THE 'ARENA' TO GAIN INFLUENCE.

THEY CAME UP WITH ALL SORTS OF ANALYSIS AND PROBLEMS WHICH THEY CLAIMED WERE NECESSARY FOR UMNO TO CHAMPION NOT ONLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MALAYS AND THE NATION BUT ALSO FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARTY.

THESE PEOPLE COULD NOT CARE LESS IF UMNO BECAME WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE AS THEY HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1125/AZ

NO17 (F)
MAHATHIR-YOUTH 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ABOUT 700 DELEGATES FROM 114 UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO DIVISIONS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND ABOUT 300 OBSERVERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONY.

AMONG THEM WERE ACTING UMNO YOUTH LEADER HAJI SUHAIMI DATUK KAMARUDDIN AND WANITA UMNO LEADER DATUK HAJJAH AISHAH CHANI AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF BOTH MOVEMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT UNITY AMONG UMNO MEMBERS WAS NECESSARY +TO SAVE OURSELVES+ IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES IN THE SITUATION AND IN ATTITUDES. -- BERNAMA MORE 1150/SZ

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NO18 (F)

MAHATHIR-YOUTH 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE BELIEF THAT ALL PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED WITH POLITICAL POWER WAS FANTASY.

+POLITICAL POWER MIGHT POSSIBLY OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE, OR ENTER A COMMERCIAL LINE, OR OBTAIN POSTS,+ HE SAID.

+BUT WHETHER WE SUCCEED IN ABSORBING THE KNOWLEDGE, GAIN PROFIT IN BUSINESS OR CARRY OUT OUR TASKS PROPERLY CAN ONLY BE ASCERTAINED BY OURSELVES, BY OUR EFFORTS, DETERMINATION, AND OUR COMPETENCY,+ HE STRESSED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, THE MALAYS AND UMNO MEMBERS MUST EQUIP THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS FIELDS +AT THE TIME WHEN WE HAVE POLITICAL POWER.+

+WE MUST ATRIVE NOT TO BE ALWAYS DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL POWER BECAUSE IN THIS WAY WE WILL BE REALLY STRONG AND BECOME SELF-RELIANT. -- BERNAMA MORE 1153/SZ

NO19 (F)

MAHATHIR-YOUTH 6 UALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON THE LEADERSHIP PROBLE 1 IN UMNO.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN UMNO YOUTH ALONE, ALMOST ALL THE LEADERS HAD BECOME THE TARGETS OF SUSPICION OR CRITICISMSALTHOUGH THEY HAD SERVED THE PARTY WITH UTMOST DEDICATION AND LOYALTY.

AS A RESULT OF THE SQUARBLES, EFFORTS COULD NO LONGER BE CONCENTRATED ON PARTY DEVELOPMENT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO ADMIT THAT THERE WAS LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO.

+BUT I CANNOT DISMISS THE FACT THAT THE EFFORTS OF UMNO'S ENEMY TO ATTACK THE MOST SENSITIVE SECTION OF THE PARTY HAVE SEEN INITIAL SUCCESS,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESENT UMNO LEADERSHIP WOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1207/YF

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NO20 (F)

MAHATHIR-YOUTH 7 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF LEADERSHIP IN DEMOCRACY WHICH WAS DIFFICULT AND IN FACT OPPOSED THE PRINCIPLE AND BASIS OF DEMOCRACY.

LEADERS, HE SAID, SHOULD LEAD OR SHOW THE WAY TO THE FOLLOWERS WHO WERE MANY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DEMOCRACY REQUIRED THAT THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY BE FOLLOWED.

+THIS MEANS THAT IF THE MANY FOLLOWERS WANT SOMETHING THE LEADER HAS TO COMPLY.+

THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE LEADER SHOULD SOLELY COMPLY WITH THE PEOPLE'S WISHES OR SHOULD TRY TO LEAD.

HE DESCRIBED A LEADER WHO COMPLIED SOLELY WITH THE PEOPLE'S WISHES AS NOT A TRUE LEADER PUT AN OPPORTUNIST.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY SUCH LEADERS IN DEMOCRACY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1210/YF

NO25 (F)
MAHATHIR-YOUTH 8 KUALA LUMPUR

THIS TYPE OF LEADER WOULD HARP ON CURRENT POPULAR TOPICS AND TRY TO BE THE CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE +ALTHOUGH EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THEY HAD NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN THOSE MATTERS BEFORE.

+I WILL NOT HESITATE TO SAY THAT UMNO WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THIS TYPE OF LEADERS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID A TRUE DEMOCRATIC LEADER SHOULD LEAD AS WELL AS LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE'S WISHES.

+THIS IS RATHER HARD BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

HE REMINDED UMNO LEADERS NOT TO THINK ONLY OF PERSONAL POPULARITY AS THIS WOULD BRING MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THEIR FOLLOWERS.

— BERNAMA 1230/YF