

MAHATHIR-BERJASA

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BALING, FEB. 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, STRESSED HERE TODAY THAT THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BARISAN NASIONAL AND BERJASA IN KELANTAN WAS AIMED AT ENHANCING THE UNITY AMONG THE MALAYS IN THAT STATE. HE SAID SUCH CO-OPERATION WOULD ALSO HELP THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE ITSELF IN ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE MALAYS WHO HAVE BEEN SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS BE SEPARATED AGAIN INTO THREE GROUPS BECAUSE OF THE DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE LEADERS OF PAS WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF BERJASA, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS DURING A POLITICAL DISCUSSION WITH THE BALING PADANG SERAI AND KULIM/BANDAR PAHRU UMNO DIVISIONS AT KUPANG, SEVEN MILES FROM HERE.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT UMNO WAS GIVING ITS FULL BACKING TO DATUK MOHAMED NASIR BECAUSE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS NOT HIS ENEMY. ANY ENMITY BETWEEN UMNO AND BERJASA, HE SAID, WOULD ONLY DESTROY THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE OF KELANTAN.

HE ALSO DENIED THAT THE CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BERJASA AND BARISAN NASIONAL WAS AIMED ONLY AT ENSURING THE VICTORY OF BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES IN THE KELANTAN ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 11. -- BERNAMA MORE 1958/ZCM

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BARISAN NASIONAL, HE ADDED, WOULD DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH BERJASA IN THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT IN KELANTAN EVEN IF UMNO WON AN OVERALL MAJORITY IN THE ELECTIONS.

+UMNO IS NOT POWER CRAZY, + HE STRESSED, +BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD SPLIT THE PEOPLE OF KELANTAN INTO THREE GROUPS, +

HE HOPED THE SPLIT IN THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE IN KELANTAN, ESPECIALLY THE MALAYS, WOULD NOT SPREAD TO KEDAH.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THOSE WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PAS LEADERS MUST SUPPORT UMNO FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY AMONG THE MALAYS AND ALSO ISLAM.

HE ADDED: +WE ARE NOT ENEMIES OF THE MEMBERS OF PAS BECAUSE WE KNOW THEY HAVE HAD TO FOLLOW DIRECTIVES FROM THEIR LEADERS WHO HAVE LOST TRACK OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT ARE INSTEAD AWARE ONLY OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS, +

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF THE PAS HAD LEFT THE PARTY AND JOINED BERJASA BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AGREE WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE OTHER PAS LEADERS.

HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE PAS LEADERS WHO CLAIMED TO BE CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF ISLAM WERE IN FACT MAKING USE OF THE RELIGION TO CREATE DISUNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE AND BELITTLE THE RELIGION. -- BERNAMA MORE 2003/ZCM

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+IT SEEMS SOME OF THE PAS LEADERS INCLUDING DATUK MOHAMED ASRI HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THIS AND THEY HAVE DECIDED NOT TO CONTEST THE STATE ELECTIONS BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE, + DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PEOPLE OF KELANTAN WERE NOW FULLY AWARE THAT SOME OF THE PAS LEADERS WHO ADMINISTERED THE STATE IN THE PAST HAD BEEN INTERESTED ONLY IN THEIR OWN WELFARE, HE SAID.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT KELANTAN REMAINED AS ONE OF THE BACKWARD STATES UNTIL NOW.

THIS SITUATION COULD BE IMPROVED ONLY IF BARISAN NASIONAL WAS ONCE AGAIN GIVEN THE TASK OF ADMINISTERING THE STATE AFTER THE COMING ELECTIONS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 2005/ZCM