

MAHATHIR
BM.

18 (p)
Kuantan, May 6 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TODAY DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE
GOVERNMENT AGAINST CERTAIN LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES WAS TO ENSURE
AN UMNO VICTORY IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED SUCH ALLEGATIONS AS BASE-
LESS AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO TAKEN SUCH ACTION AGAINST UMNO
LEADERS THEMSELVES IN THE INTEREST OF THE LAW ALTHOUGH SUCH ACTIONS
WERE UNPOPULAR.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PRACTISE
FAVOURITISM IN UPHOLDING THE LAW.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT AGAINST ANYONE, SMALL OR BIG,
FROM THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES OR THE OPPOSITION IF THEY WENT
AGAINST THE LAW.

OPENING THE KUANTAN UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING HERE, DATUK
SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID UMNO'S COURAGE IN ADOPTING SUCH AN ATTITUDE
HAD MADE IT UNIQUE.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION AGAINST SOME
OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO HAD GONE AGAINST THE LAW, ALLEGATIONS HAD
BEEN MADE THAT SUCH ACTIONS WERE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES TO ENABLE THE
GOVERNMENT PARTIES TO WIN THE ELECTION. — BERNAMA MORE 1345/SZ

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HE SAID THAT IF THE PURPOSE OF SUCH ACTIONS WAS
TO ENSURE VICTORY AT THE ELECTIONS, AND NOT IN UPHOLDING THE LAW,
THEN THE ACTION AGAINST SOME LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS IT HAD MADE THE GOVERNMENT UNPOPULAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS MUST
REALISE THAT IF THE PARTY DID NOT OBSERVE THE LAW, IT WOULD THEN LOSE
THE SUPPORT FROM THOSE WHO DID NOT SYMPATHISE WITH THE PARTY, THE
FENCE-SITTERS AND ULTIMATELY THE PARTY PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

INSTEAD, UMNO WOULD RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND
SUPPORTERS IF IT MAINTAINED THE ATTITUDE FOR THE NEED TO
OBSERVE THE REGULATIONS LAID DOWN BY THE LAWS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE UMNO CONSTITUTION ITSELF
WAS BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WHICH ALLOWED THE MEMBERS TO
PRESENT THEIR VIEWS.

HOWEVER, SUCH VIEWS SHOULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH PROPER
METHODS AND NOT THROUGH TALK AT COFFEESHOPS OR UNSIGNED PAMPHLETS.

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT CERTAIN GROUPS HAD BEEN
DISTRIBUTING SUCH PAMPHLETS PURPORTEDLY FROM UMNO MEMBERS THEMSELVES
TO SPILT PARTY UNITY.

THE PARTY LEADERSHIP DID NOT ENTERTAIN SUCH PAMPHLETS, HE SAID.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF SUCH PAMPHLETS WERE TO BE
PRESENTED TO THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, THEY SHOULD BE SIGNED TO SHOW THE
SINCERITY OF THE WRITERS.

THIS WAS IMPORTANT AS UMNO HAD NO PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE
INSINCERE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID UMNO WAS AN ORGANISATION WHICH
COULD ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF ALL COMMUNITIES THAT IT COULD FORM A FAIR
AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

UMNO REALISED THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND WISHED TO PRESERVE ITSELF
AS A POLITICAL PARTY THAT WOULD STRIVE FOR THE GOOD, NOT ONLY OF
ITS MEMBERS, BUT ALSO FOR RELIGION, THE RACE AND THE NATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN DOING THIS IT HAD
SOMETIMES TO TAKE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WHICH WERE
CONTRADICTORY TO THE PARTY. — BERNAMA MORE 1420/SZ

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HOWEVER, HE SAID, UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT SUCH GOVERNMENT ACTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN AFTER STUDY.

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ENTERTAIN UNFAIR AND BASELESS CLAIMS ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY IT HAD BEEN URGED TO ACT IN FAVOUR OF UMNO IF IT WENT AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF UMNO WAS WEAKENED, THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS WOULD BE THREATENED.

THIS WAS BECAUSE UMNO WAS A LARGE ORGANISATION THAT HAD SUCCESSFULLY STRUGGLED FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MALAYS.

HE HOPED THAT PARTY MEMBERS WOULD REMIND THEMSELVES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE FAIR AND RENEW THEIR ATTITUDE TO STRIVE TOWARDS THIS DIRECTION.

EARLIER, THE HEAD OF THE KUANTAN UMNO DIVISION, ENCIK ALI SHARIFF, SAID THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP HAD RISEN BY 44 PER CENT, FROM 5,180 IN 1976 TO 7,470 LAST YEAR. 92

THIS YEAR, THE DIVISION HOPED TO INCREASE IT TO 10,000.

ENCIK ALI, WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, SAID THAT THE DIVISION FULLY SUPPORTED THE LEADERSHIP OF DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AND DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.— BERNAMA 1430/SZ