

MAHATHIR
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NIBONG TEBAL, JULY 3 (BERNAMA) — [Ⓟ] DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES TODAY THAT THEY SHOULD WORK FOR THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE AND NOT CONFINE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS FULFILLING INDIVIDUAL PARTY OBJECTIVES ONLY.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE MCA WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN LOOKING AFTER THE INTEREST OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY, THE PARTY WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE AS IT WOULD BE IGNORING THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER RACES.

SPEAKING AT A CERAMAH SESSION AT SUNGAI BAKAP NEAR HERE, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE COMPONENT PARTIES SHOULD ALSO SET ASIDE +PERSONAL FEELINGS+ TO ENSURE THE BARISAN'S SUCCESS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE DISSATISFACTION AMONG SEVERAL BARISAN MEMBERS OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS SHOULD NOT HAVE ARISEN.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS HAD BEEN MADE BASED PRIMARILY ON THE PREDOMINANCE OF A CERTAIN RACE IN A GIVEN CONSTITUENCY.

IF THE CONSTITUENCY WAS PREDOMINANTLY CHINESE, THEN A CHINESE CANDIDATE WOULD BE FIELDDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1827/ZCM

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HOWEVER, CHINESE CANDIDATES HAD ALSO BEEN FIELDDED IN CERTAIN CONSTITUENCIES WHERE MALAYS FORMED THE MAJORITY AND MALAY CANDIDATES CHOSEN TO STAND IN PREDOMINANTLY CHINESE AREAS.

IN THIS RESPECT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ALL BARISAN SUPPORTERS SHOULD ENSURE THE VICTORY OF THE PARTY'S CANDIDATES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR RACIAL ORIGINS.

HE RAISED THESE POINTS IN THE LIGHT OF SOME MCA AND UMNO MEMBERS CONTESTING AS INDEPENDENTS AGAINST BARISAN CANDIDATES FOR THE NIBONG TEBAL PARLIAMENTARY AND SUNGAI BAKAP STATE SEATS.

THESE EX-BARISAN MEMBERS HAD REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT THEY WOULD REJOIN THE BARISAN IF THEY WON IN THE ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE BARISAN HAD NO PLACE FOR SUCH PEOPLE WHO HAD FAILED TO ABIDE BY THE DECISIONS OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP. — BERNAMA MORE 1830/ZCM

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HE ADDED THAT THESE PEOPLE COULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED AS THEY HAD SOUGHT TO DISRUPT THE PARTY'S UNITY AND ATTEMPT TO USE COMMUNAL FEELINGS FOR SELF-INTERESTS.

THE PEOPLE WOULD STAND TO LOSE IF THEY ELECTED INDEPENDENTS AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR PROMISES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ELECTION WAS NOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CANDIDATES TO ACQUIRE STATUS AND THE TITLE OF +YANG BERNORMAT.+

IT WAS AN EXERCISE TO ELECT A GOVERNMENT TO SERVE THE PEOPLE. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DATUK SERI KAMARUDDIN DIN MAT ISA AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND UTILITIES, DR. GOH CHENG TEIK, WHO IS SEEKING RE-ELECTION TO THE NIBONG TEBAL PARLIAMENTARY SEAT. — BERNAMA 1834/6