

UMNO-MAHATHIR

BM

(EMBARGO; FOR RELEASE AT 10.30 A.M. SEPT. 14)

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 14 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM VETERANS IN UMNO TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT GRADUALLY FROM NOW.

+UMNO IS NOW 32 YEARS OLD AND MOST OF ITS MEMBERS AND LEADERS HAVE GROWN IN AGE, + HE ADDED, WHEN OPENING THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THE YOUNGER MEMBERS MUST ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARTY SPIRIT AND DISCIPLINE IF THEY HOPED TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS.

+DO NOT DROP A TRADITION JUST BECAUSE IT IS A TRADITION AND DO NOT BELIEVE IN SOMETHING NEW JUST BECAUUA IT IS NEW,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO HAS BEEN RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SAID THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO HAD BEEN GIVEN POSITIVE ROLES IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION.

THEIR ROLES HAD A SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON THE FUTURE OF UMNO.  
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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON THE:-

+ UNHEALTHY TREND IN THE CAMPAIGNS FOR UMNO ELECTION;

+ CERTAIN PEOPLE TRYING TO MANIPULATE RELIGION TO SUIT THEIR ENDS; AND

+ LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES AT YOUTH AND WANITA LEVELS.

ON THE UMNO ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, HE SAID EMPHASIS WAS NOT GIVEN TO THE ABILITY OR SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATES BUT RATHER TO THE WEAKNESSES OF OTHER CANDIDATES.

+ THIS IS AN UNHEALTHY TREND,+ HE REMARKED.

WHILE AGREEING THAT CANDIDATES WHO DID NOT HAVE A GOOD RECORD SHOULD NOT BE ELECTED, HE DEPLORED THE ACTION OF CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO CREATE ISSUES TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE OF THEIR RIVALS.

THIS WAS BAD AS IT WOULD RESULT IN THE ELECTION OF THOSE WHO USED DIRTY TACTICS WHILE THOSE WHO WERE QUALIFIED WERE LEFT OUT.

HE WARNED THAT IF THIS TREND CONTINUED, UMNO WOULD IN THE END BE LED BY PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE POTENTIALS AND CALIBRE TO SHOULDER THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO A RULING PARTY.

THIS WOULD ONLY WEAKEN THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT HE ADDED.  
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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PRESENT LEADERS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THE POLITICAL SCENE FOR LONG. WHEN THEY RETIRED THE LEADERSHIP OF UMNO WOULD GO TO THE YOUNGER MEMBERS.

+WHAT WE FEAR IS THAT WHILE MANY KNOW HOW TO CRITICISE THE LEADERSHIP ONLY A HANDFUL OF THEM UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY AND BASIS OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE WHICH HAS ENSURED UMNO'S VIABILITY THUS FAR,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THAT A PROGRAMME BE STARTED TO PREPARE THE YOUTHS AND WANITA FOR RESPONSIBLE POSTS.

HE SAID THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO SHOULD MAKE THEIR PREPARATIONS FROM NOW ON.

— BERNAMA MORE 1026/LK

**UMNO—MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR**

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID UMNO STRATEGY SINCE 1951 WAS TO COOPERATE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHER PARTIES SO LONG AS IT DID NOT AFFECT UMNO'S ORIGINAL STRUGGLE.

THIS STRATEGY WAS IMPORTANT IF THE NATION WERE TO HAVE A VIABLE GOVERNMENT. THE FALL OF MANY GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN DUE TO THE SELFISH ATTITUDE OF THE RULING PARTIES.

HE SAID UMNO WAS LIBERAL IN ITS APPROACH NOT BECAUSE IT WAS AFRAID OF OTHER PARTIES BUT BECAUSE OF ITS RATIONAL ATTITUDE.

+WE ALWAYS PLACE THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, AND RELIGION BEFORE OUR OWN SATISFACTION, + HE ADDED.

ON THE COOPERATION WITH BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, HE SAID UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO SHOULD WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER PARTIES.

THIS WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN FUTURE.

— BERNAMA MORE 1031/LK

**UMNO—MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR**

HE ALSO REMINDED DELEGATES TO BEWARE OF PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO MANIPULATE RELIGION TO SUIT THEIR ENDS.

SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD ONLY SPLIT THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES MORE MUSLIMS WERE KILLED BY MUSLIMS THAN BY NON-MUSLIMS IN THE PRESENT CRISIS.

IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHERE THE POPULATION USED TO BE NEARLY 100 PER CENT MUSLIMS, THE PEOPLE HAD REJECTED ISLAM AND ACCEPTED IDEOLOGIES WHICH WERE CONTRARY TO ISLAM.

IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID, CERTAIN MUSLIM GROUPS WERE GOING ROUND PROPAGATING THE WRONG CONCEPT OF THE RELIGION WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO SPREAD, WOULD ENDANGER THE NATION'S SOLIDARITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO MEMBERS TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THE PURITY OF ISLAM.

— BERNAMA 1035/LK