

NO14 (F)
MAHATHIR
BM

PENANG, NOV 21⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- THE USE OF PRESSURE GROUPS BY THE MINORITY TO EXPLOIT MATTERS AND POLICIES THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS ITSELF AN OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRACY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS FACT AS IN THE PAST ONE OFTEN HEARD OF CERTAIN QUARTERS ACTING AS PRESSURE GROUPS OR USING SUCH GROUPS TO CREATE DISSENSION AMONG THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT POLICIES OF THE COUNTRY WERE AIMED AT ACHIEVING PROSPERITY AND SOLIDARITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE 10TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GERAKAN PARTY AT THE DEWAN SRI PINANG HERE. MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1302/MK

NO15: (F)
MAHATHIR 2 PENANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY SUCH AS MALAYSIA, CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS WERE IMPORTANT WHILE MERE TALKS AND CONFLICTS SHOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM.

HE SAID IN SUCH A SOCIETY AN ISSUE COULD BE EXPLOITED BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO AROUSE COMMUNAL SENTIMENTS AND THUS THE CREATION OF PRESSURE GROUPS.

SUCH A SITUATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, WOULD ONLY SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL UNITY AS ISSUES FANNED BY COMMUNAL SENTIMENTS OR PAROCHIALISM WOULD ONLY CREATE DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID SUCH A SITUATION WOULD LEAD TO CHAOS IF EXPLOITED BY UNSCRUPLOUS PEOPLE.

HE HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD REALISE THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD NOT BENEFIT ANYONE BE IT NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1310/1B

NO18: (F)
MAHATHIR 3 PENANG

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL DEPENDED ON THE UNITY AMONG ITS COMPONENT PARTIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS TO ENHANCE THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTY'S UNITY AND ADDED THAT ANY WEAKNESS ON THE PART OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL COULD AFFECT THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL STABILITY.

IT COULD ALSO CREATE PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, WHICH AT PRESENT WAS STABLE AND SHOWING PROMISE OF HIGHER GROWTH RATE.

+THEREFORE ANY PROBLEM OR CONFLICT AMONG COMPONENT PARTY MEMBERS SHOULD BE OVERCOME THROUGH THE EXISTING MACHINERY WITHOUT MUCH ADO OR EXAGGERATED THROUGH THE PRESS OR MASS-MEDIA, + HE SAID.

ON THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED SURPRISED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN GROUPS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, WHO HAD SHOWN THEIR LACK OF CONFIDENCE OR UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1345/1B

NO19: (F)
MAHATHIR 4 PENANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF ALL RACES AND GROUPS AREAS AND THE NATION.

HE DESCRIBED THE ACTION BY CERTAIN GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS, WHO WERE ONLY CONCERNED WITH AMASSING WEALTH FOR THEMSELVES, AS POURING FUEL TO FIRE.

+LIKEWISE THOSE WHO REFUSE TO WORK HARD TO IMPROVE THEIR WELL-BEING WILL BE LEFT BEHIND AND SUFFER. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN THEY HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO BLAME BUT THEMSELVES, + HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1350/1B