

81 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 27 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPRESSED TODAY UMNO'S READINESS TO BE ON GOOD TERMS AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH THOSE THAT HAD ALL THIS WHILE ACCUSED IT OF NOT CARRYING OUT ADMINISTRATION ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAWS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT UMNO, AS AN ISLAMIC PARTY, WOULD NOT ASSUME AN ANTAGONISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THOSE WHO WILDLY HURL SUCH ACCUSATIONS.

+WE ARE PREPARED TO FACE THEM, TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THEM AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM,+ HE SAID.

+WE ARE READY TO DO THIS BECAUSE WE WISH TO DO WHAT IS TAUGHT BY ISLAM AND WHAT WE CAN DO FOR ISLAM,+ HE ADDED WHEN OPENING A COURSE ORGANISED BY THE UMNO RELIGIOUS BUREAU AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS AN ISLAMIC PARTY AND PILLAR OF ISLAM IN A GOVERNMENT RULING A COUNTRY WHOSE OFFICIAL RELIGION IS ISLAM, IT HAD HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES.

HE SAID UMNO'S ACTIONS WERE NOT MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO WIN IN POLITICAL CONTESTS BUT BECAUSE IT WANTED TO ADHERE TO THE TEACHINGS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ISLAM. — BERNAMA MORE 1204/A1

NO23 (F)  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO CONCURRED WITH SUCH VIEWS WERE FRIENDS OF UMNO BUT THOSE WHO VIOLATED THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WOULD BE OPPOSED.

+BUT IF THEY REALISE (THEIR MISTAKES) AND RETURN TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, IF THEY WISH TO BE FRIENDLY AS MUSLIMS, WE WILL ACCEPT THEM...THEIR PAST MISTAKES WILL BE JUDGED BY ALLAH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHAT UMNO COULD DO WAS TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO HAD REALISED THEIR ERRORS AND IT WAS NOT FOR UMNO TO READ WHAT WAS IN THEIR HEARTS.

+WHAT WE NEED TO ACCEPT AS NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS IS WHAT IS CLEAR TO US ONLY,+ HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT UMNO AS AN ISLAMIC PARTY PRACTISED ALL THAT WAS TAUGHT BY ISLAM.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PARTY CRITICISED OR TOOK ACTION TO PREVENT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BRANDING OTHERS INFIDELS, BOYCOTTS, HAVING SEPARATE CONGREGATIONS OR NON-FULFILLMENT OF FARDHU KIFAYAH, +ALL THESE WE DO BECAUSE WE ARE MUSLIMS WHO WANT TO ABIDE BY THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM+. -- BERNAMA MORE 1317/SZ

NO24 (F)  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE TO MUSLIMS AND FOR ISLAM IN THE COUNTRY, IT WOULD BE A BIG MISTAKE AND SIN IF THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST WRONG DOINGS TO THE RELIGION WHEN IT WAS CAPABLE OF DOING SO.

HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFUSION AMONG UMNO MEMBERS OVER THE ROLE OF THE PARTY AS THE PILLAR OF ISLAM.

POSSIBLY, HE SAID, THERE WERE THOSE WHO ACCUSED UMNO, BEING THE RULING PARTY, OF NOT HAVING IMPLEMENTED ALL ISLAMIC LAWS.

THIS WAS NOT TRUE AS WHAT UMNO HAD DONE WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES PERMITTED BY ISLAM AND BASED ON THE QURAN, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO HAD BEEN HURLING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST UMNO WERE THE ONES WHO HAD NOT BEEN ABIDING BY THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND THIS COULD BE PROVED ANYTIME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S SPEECH WAS SEEN BY THOSE PRESENT AS AN INVITATION TO PAS TO RETURN TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL. -- BERNAMA MORE 1320/SZ

NO25 (F)  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS, HE SAID IT WAS AN INVITATION TO ALL MUSLIMS TO JOIN UMNO -- ONE OF THE BIGGEST MUSLIM POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT IF PAS WISHED TO RE-JOIN THE BARISAN, UMNO DID NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTION.

HOWEVER, HE RE-ITERATED THAT PAS MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

IN PRACTICE, HE SAID, A SMALL PARTY SHOULD AFFILIATE WITH A BIG PARTY AND AN ORGANISATION WISHING TO JOIN A LONG-ESTABLISHED GROUP SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

ASKED IF THE CALL COULD BE INTERPRETED AS UMNO'S DESIRE TO SEE THE MUSLIMS UNITED IN FACING THE POSSIBILITY OF A GENERAL ELECTION SOON, HE SAID THAT AT THE MOMENT EVERYTHING WAS SEEN AS +ELECTION FEVER.+

+THE BUDGET PRESENTED RECENTLY WAS ALSO INTERPRETED AS AN ELECTION BUDGET ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER PRESENTED A BUDGET THAT BURDENED THE PEOPLE SINCE SIX YEARS AGO,+ HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA 1325/SZ