

NO32 (F)  
MAHATHIR-MCA

72

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 30<sup>81</sup> (BERNAMA) — (P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS THE CORRECT FORMULA FOR MALAYSIA AS THIS HAD BEEN FOUND TO WORK WELL.

THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCED RAPID PROGRESS AND HAD BROUGHT DEVELOPMENT TO THE PEOPLE, HE SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE CONVENTION ENTITLED +TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE+ ORGANISED BY THE FEDERAL TERRITORY MCA HERE.

HE SAID THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS A UNIQUE MOVE IN THAT IT WAS FORMED BEFORE THE ELECTION AND NOT AFTER.

THE COALITION, HE SAID, WAS NOT BASED ON THE INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE GENUINE DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIND A COMPROMISE TO REDUCE CONFLICTS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1535/SZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ANY CALL FOR CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO CONSEQUENCES.

HE REMINDED THAT CHANGES WOULD NOT ONLY CAUSE DESTRUCTION TO THE COUNTRY BUT WOULD ALSO CHANGE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID IF THERE WAS A NEED FOR A CHANGE THEN CHANGES MUST BE COORDINATED TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES.

HE ALSO REMINDED THAT SUCH CHANGES SHOULD NOT BE MADE AS A RESULT OF TAKING ADVICE FROM OUTSIDERS PARTICULARLY FOREIGNERS WHO WERE GOOD AT TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO RUN THE COUNTRY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CHANGES IN VIETNAM, KAMPUCHEA, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND ETHIOPIA FOR INSTANCE WERE THE RESULT OF FOREIGN ADVICE AND INTERFERENCE.

— BERNAMA MORE 1538/SZ

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+INVARIABLY THESE CHANGES WORSEN THE SITUATION FROM A DEMOCRATIC TO A LESS DEMOCRATIC AND EVEN TO A TOTALITARIAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

LOOKING BACK AFTER 24 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNTRY HAD ACHIEVED TREMENDOUS PROGRESS ALTHOUGH IT HAD TO FACE SERIOUS PROBLEM, RACIAL DISHARMONY AND LACK OF COHESION IN THE BEGINNING.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY REMAINED PEACEFUL AND WAS ABLE TO PROGRESS WELL WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE AT THE SAME TIME OR EARLIER.

—BERNAMA 1540/SZ  
MAHATHIR-MCA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, FEDERAL TERRITORY MCA CHAIRMAN TAN KOON SWAN SAID THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE WERE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING THEIR PROBLEMS AND HOPED THE CONVENTION WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

HE SAID PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE CHINESE COMMUNITY COULD BE RESOLVED ONLY THROUGH A MORE POSITIVE AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH.

+THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS DEPENDS ON OUR OWN ATTITUDE, WE HAVE TO FACE REALITIES, NOT AVOID THEM+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON THE PARTY MEMBERS TO RESPOND TO AND SUPPORT THE CALL BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

EIGHT WORKING PAPERS ON THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, EDUCATION, PUBLIC SERVICES, POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT WERE PRESENTED DURING THE ONE-DAY CONVENTION.

—BERNAMA MORE 1620/AN

NO52 (F)  
MAHATHIR-MCA 5 KUALA LUMPUR

IN CLOSING THE CONVENTION, MCA DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK RICHARD HO SAID IT WAS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MCA WAS A GOOD, STABLE AND EFFECTIVE PARTY, OCCASIONAL DISAGREEMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING.

OF LATE THE PARTY'S COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN MUCH ENHANCED AND STRENGTHENED WITH NEWER, YOUNGER BLOOD AND THIS HAD BROUGHT ABOUT AN ACTIVE REORIENTATION OF PARTY ACTIVITIES.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO BRING ABOUT THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF COHESION OF PURPOSE AMONG ALL MALAYSIAN CHINESE. AS A MINORITY COMMUNITY, EXCESSIVE BICKERING WOULD IRREPARABLY SAP THE PARTY'S LIMITED POLITICAL STRENGTH. +IT IS A POLITICAL LUXURY WE CANNOT AFFORD.+

DATUK HO CALLED ON PARTY MEMBERS TO GIVE THEIR BEST IN BUILDING A UNITED MALAYSIA.

+TO DO THIS WE HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES. BUT FIRST WE MUST GET ALONG WELL WITH OURSELVES,+ HE STRESSED.

—BERNAMA 1650/SZ