

MAHATHIR
BM

BY ANMAT WANAB

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 24 (BERNAMA)—DATUK MUSA HITAM AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE IN UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT REGARDLESS OF WHOEVER BETWEEN THE TWO WINS THE ELECTION FOR THE PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENCY, SAYS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH +MERDEKA,+ UMNO'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDS THAT NONE OF THE TWO WILL LEAVE THE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO HAS BEEN RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAYS HE BELIEVES THAT THE CONTEST FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

HE ALSO SAYS THAT AS A PERSON SUBSCRIBING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, HE WILL ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE DELEGATES.

THIS STATEMENT BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ENDS SPECULATION ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LOSER WILL RESIGN FROM THE PARTY AND CABINET.—BERNAMA MORE 1555/HM

NO49 (F)

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SO FAR, ONLY TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL LEAVE THE CABINET SHOULD HE LOSE THE CONTEST.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS HE HOPES THAT UMNO MEMBERS WILL NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE OVERCOME WITH EMOTION, LIKE JUMPING FOR JOY WHEN THE CANDIDATE THEY SUPPORT WINS OR BECOMING TOO GRIEF-STRICKEN WHEN THEIR CANDIDATE LOSES.

+I ALSO HOPE THERE WILL BE NO SHOUTING AND JEERING (AT THE ASSEMBLY),+ HE ADDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THE VICTORY OF ANY CANDIDATE IS A VICTORY FOR UMNO AND NOT A PERSONAL VICTORY.

THE CONTEST FOR THIS HIGH POST IN THE PARTY IS NOT SOMETHING NEW, HE SAYS. THE LATE TUN DR. ISMAIL STOOD AGAINST THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK FOR THE SAME POST.

+TUN ISMAIL LOST BUT HE CONTINUED TO SERVE THE PARTY,+ HE ADDS.—BERNAMA MORE 1603/HM

NO52 (F)
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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS: +WHEN TUN RAZAK EVENTUALLY BECAME PARTY PRESIDENT, TUN ISMAIL WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THE POST OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT. THIS EXAMPLE MUST BE EMULATED BY US TODAY.+

HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CONTEST BETWEEN TUN ISMAIL AND TUN RAZAK WAS NOT AS +HOT+ AS THE CURRENT CONTEST IS EXPECTED TO BE.

+AT TIMES IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE CONTESTING WITH CANDIDATES FROM OTHER PARTIES,+ HE SAYS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THIS OCCURS ONLY WHEN THE SITUATION IS +HOT+ AND HE HOPES THAT

AFTER THE CONTEST BOTH SIDES WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO UMNO AND SOLIDARITY IN THE PARTY.

+THE LOSER'S SIDE MUST ACCEPT THE LEADER WHO IS ELECTED BY THE MAJORITY.

+IF WE DO NOT HOLD TO THIS PRINCIPLE, THEN WE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY. IF WE ACCEPT THIS CONCEPT, ONLY THEN CAN WE SAY WE ARE MATURED IN POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY,+ HE SAYS.

—BERNAMA MORE 1606/HM

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS HE IS CONFIDENT THE EXISTING FEELINGS OF RIVALRY WILL VANISH IN TIME, AND THAT SUCH FEELINGS WILL DISAPPEAR EASILY IF ALL UMNO LEADERS REMAIN UNITED.

IN THE INTERVIEW, HE REPLIES TO THE QUESTION WHY HE DID NOT CHOOSE THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT HIMSELF AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST.

HE EXPLAINS THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IS THE RIGHT OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY, BUT IF THE PRIME MINISTER CAN DETERMINE THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY, THEN THE CONCEPT OF PARTY CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MEANINGLESS.

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ON SUGGESTIONS THAT TWO PERSONS BE ELECTED DEPUTY PRESIDENTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, HE REPLIES: +IF WE SHOULD HAVE TWO POSTS OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE TWO PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE THEN IN TIME TO COME WE MAY HAVE TO HAVE THREE POSTS JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE THREE ELIGIBLE PERSONS.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS HE FEELS THAT THIS IS NOT A SOLUTION - IT IS ACTUALLY EVADING THE PROBLEM, AND BY DOING SO +WE MERELY SHIFT THE PROBLEM FROM ONE LEVEL TO A HIGHER LEVEL.+ — 734, -- .943 1650/HM

071: (F)
MAHATHIR 5 KU

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THAT SHOULD THE CONTEST FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S POST BE AVOIDED IT WILL MEAN THERE WILL BE CONTEST FOR THE PARTY'S TOP POST SHOULD THERE BE A VACANCY.

HE MUST STRIVE TO AVOID A CONTEST AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BECAUSE IF THERE IS A CONTEST, AN UNHEALTHY SITUATION WILL COME ABOUT, + HE ADDS.

HE STRESSES THAT SHOULD A CONTEST OCCUR ONLY FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY, DISUNITY CAN BE AVOIDED BECAUSE THE PARTY LEADER HAS HIS PLACE AND WILL BE THE UNIFYING FACTOR.

BUT, IF THERE IS A CONTEST FOR THE TOP POST, THE PARTY WILL BE DIVIDED, AND THIS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THAT IN THE ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE PARTY TRADITION SHOULD BE ADHERED TO - THAT IS, WHEN IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT SOMEONE HOLD THE POST, THERE SHOULD BE NO CHALLENGERS, EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES. — BERNAMA MORE 1702/A1

072: (F)
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ACTUALLY, THE SECRET OF SOLIDARITY IN UMNO ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THIS ADHERENCE TO THE TRADITION - THAT IS, RESOLVING THE LEADERSHIP PROBLEM AT THE SECOND LEVEL AND NOT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, + HE SAYS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDS THAT HE DID NOT SPEAK OF THIS MATTER BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT PEOPLE TO SAY +I DO NOT WANT ANYONE TO CHALLENGE ME.+

BUT, NOW THAT I HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS PARTY PRESIDENT, I CAN SAY THIS, + HE EXPLAINS. — BERNAMA 1703/A1