

N104 (F)
MAHATHIR — TRIBUTE
3M

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 28 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO OUT-GOING PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, DESCRIBING HIM AS A NATIONAL LEADER HIGHLY ACCLAIMED FOR HIS QUALITIES OF FIRMNESS, SINCERITY AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.

THE NEW UMNO PRESIDENT SAID DATUK HUSSEIN WAS RESPECTED FOR HIS PERSONAL IMAGE IN UMNO AND PRAISED HIM FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE RELINQUISHED POWER WHILE STILL RIDING HIGH.

+IN A WORLD WHERE NO OTHER LEADER WILL WILLINGLY GIVE UP HIS POWER WITHOUT COERCION, DATUK HUSSEIN'S GESTURE SHOULD BE ALL THE MORE COMMENDED.+

WINDING UP THE DEBATE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE UMNO MALAYSIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, THE IN-COMING PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT NORMALLY IT WOULD GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF A LEADER TO GIVE UP HIS POWER JUST LIKE THAT.

+USUALLY HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CLING ONTO HIS POST OR AT LEAST IMPOSE HIS WILL AND PERPETUATE HIS INFLUENCE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS OWN DYNASTY.+ — BERNAMA MORE 2126/HS

N015 (F)
MAHATHIR — TRIBUTE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

WHEN THE LEADER STEPPED DOWN, IT WAS USUALLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM OTHERS.

BUT FIRST HE WOULD USE EVERY TRICK AND SEEK EVERY MEAN TO HOLD ON TO HIS POST AND ONLY WHEN FACED WITH THE INEVITABLE WOULD HE STEP DOWN, BUT NOT BEFORE ENSURING HIS CHOICE OF SUCCESSION BY NAMING A RELATIVE OR PROTEGE AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE LEADERS LIKE DATUK HUSSEIN WHO LEFT IT TO UMNO DELEGATES TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IF DATUK HUSSEIN HAD DECIDED TO RESIGN LAST YEAR OR NEXT YEAR, THE DELEGATES MIGHT NOT HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

+IF HE HAD RESIGNED LAST YEAR AND HAD CHOSEN THE CANDIDATE FOR THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POST, THIS WILL CONSTITUTE A FAIT ACCOMPLI DIFFICULT FOR UMNO TO REJECT.+ — BERNAMA MORE 2130/HS

N106 (F)
MAHATHIR — TRIBUTE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE NATION WAS PROUD TO HAVE A STATESMAN LIKE DATUK HUSSEIN, HE ADDED, AND HISTORY WOULD RECORD THIS EVENT AS A GLORIOUS LANDMARK FOR THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE USELESS FOR HIM TO BE A HYPOCRITE AND PRETEND THAT HE WAS NOT GLAD AND PROUD TO BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY.

+BUT A SOURCE OF GREATER PRIDE FOR ME IS DATUK HUSSEIN'S VOLUNTARY SACRIFICE TO WITHDRAW AS UMNO PRESIDENT, A POSITION OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY AND THE DREAM OF MANY PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA 2132/HS

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