

N112: (F)
MAHATHIR-TRADITION
BM

PENANG, MAY 24 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN THE TRADITION FOR THE PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT TO BECOME DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THIS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE FOLLOWED.

OPENING THE BUKIT BENDERA UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING HERE, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THERE WAS A NEED TO PART FROM TRADITION.

HE QUOTED A MALAY PROVERB +BIAR MATI ANAK JANGAN MATI ADAT+ (A CHILD MAY BE SACRIFICED BUT NOT TRADITION) BUT QUERIED THAT IF THE CHILD DIED, WHO THEN WOULD CARRY ON THE TRADITION.

(ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION BY REPORTERS LATER, HE SAID THERE WAS NO LAW IN THE COUNTRY STIPULATING THAT THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF UMNO MUST BE MADE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER). -- BERNAMA MORE 1956/A1

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BY DATUK HUSSEIN OMN, HE WAS ONLY UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT.

REGARDING THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE, HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN NOMINATED FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD ALSO ACCEPT NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT IF THERE WERE ANY.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE NOW MENTRI BESAR WHO OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF UMNO DELEGATES MEETINGS OUTSIDE THEIR STATES.

THIS WAS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AS IT ENABLED UMNO MEMBERS TO GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER AND SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO CONTEST FOR SEATS IN THE SUPREME COUNCIL, THE MEMBERS WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CORRECT CHOICE.

IN THE PAST, MENTRI BESAR WERE ONLY KNOWN TO MEMBERS OUTSIDE THEIR STATES THROUGH PRESS REPORTS OR HEARSAY AND DID NOT REALLY GET TO KNOW THEM ON THEIR ATTITUDES. - BERNAMA MORE 2013/BW

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE ASSESSMENTS ON THE CANDIDATES FOR THE COMING PARTY ELECTIONS.

WHOEVER WERE ELECTED, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PARTY IN A COLLECTIVE MANNER AND MUST ACCEPT ANY DECISION MADE BY THE PARTY. - BERNAMA 2017/BW

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