

KOTA BHARU, FEB. 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE ABOUT ATTEMPTS BY AN OPPOSITION PARTY TO INCITE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL TO HATE THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO THREATEN THE PEACE TO ACHIEVE THEIR EVIL AIMS. WITHOUT NAMING THE PARTY, HE SAID THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL WERE FED WITH DECEIVING ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING ONE THAT, AS PEOPLE SHOULDERING THE BURDEN OF MAINTAINING SECURITY, THEY SHOULD NOT BE PAID SUCH LOW WAGES AND BE GIVEN ILL-TREATMENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A TEA-PARTY ATTENDED BY ABOUT 5,000 BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS AT THE RESIDENCE OF FINANCE MINISTER, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE MENTRI BESAR, DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD YAACOB AND THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WARNED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNCHECKED AS THEY WOULD PLACE THE COUNTRY IN A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION. -- BERNAMA MORE 2134/MK

N152
MAHATHIR - SECURITY 2 KOTA BHARU

+IF THE ARMED FORCES OR POLICE PERSONNEL ARE INFLUENCED AND THEY FEEL DISHEARTENED, THIS WILL RESULT IN THEM NEGLECTING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING SECURITY, THUS, LEAVING THE WAY OPEN FOR THE ENEMY TO CREATE CHAOS,+ HE STRESSED.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF DISTURBANCES AGAIN OCCURRED IN THE COUNTRY, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT AN EN TO THEM BECAUSE THE EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES SHOWED THAT EFFORTS TO TOPPLE A GOVERNMENT THROUGH VIOLENCE WOULD RESULT IN PROLONGED CHAOS.

DESCRIBING THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES AS IRRESPONSIBLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN A COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA WHICH PRACTICED DEMOCRACY, IT WAS EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO UNSEAT THE GOVERNMENT SO LONG AS IT WAS DONE LEGALLY AND NOT THROUGH DECEIT AND USE OF SENTIMENTS WHICH COULD AROUSE ENMITY.

+AS THE RULING PARTY, BARISAN NASIONAL WILL NOT MAKE USE OF ILLEGAL METHODS TO ACHIEVE VICTORY OR TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION,+ HE ADDED.

HE THEN REMINDED POLITICIANS WHO DID NOT RESPECT THEIR OWN RELIGION BY GIVING DECEIVING INTERPRETATION TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE KORAN AND HADIS THAT THEY WOULD NOT WIN. -- BERNAMA MORE 2139/MK

MAHATHIR - SECURITY 3 KOTA BHARU

+THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD FIRM TO RELIGION AND MAKE USE OF IT AS THEY PLEASED WITH THE AIM OF DECEIVING THE PEOPLE ARE SURE TO BE DEFEATED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN URGED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO TREAT PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY INTIGATION FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTY AS ENEMIES.

+THE PEOPLE CANNOT BE BLAMED BECAUSE THEY WERE MISLED BUT OUR REAL ENEMY ARE THOSE WHO CAUSED THE PEOPLE TO BE MISLED,+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON UMNO MEMBERS TO GIVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION TO THE PEOPLE SO THAT THOSE WHO HAD BEEN MISLED WOULD TURN UPON THE INSTIGATORS. -- BERNAMA 2141/MK