

N212 (F)
MAHATHIR - PAS
BM.

32 (P)
BESUT, MARCH 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD), TODAY REPEATED HIS OFFER TO PAS TO JOIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

UMNO'S DOORS WERE ALSO ALWAYS OPEN TO ACCEPT ANY PAS MEMBERS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SAD TO SEE MUSLIMS IN PAS OPPOSING UMNO WHEREAS IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF THE MUSLIMS IN THE TWO PARTIES SHOULD BECOME ALLIES AND TOGETHER STRENGTHEN THE FAITH IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE, RELIGION AND NATION.

OPENING THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE BESUT UMNO DIVISION AT THE TOWN HALL HERE, THE UMNO PRESIDENT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IF PAS LEADERS PERMITTED THEIR MEMBERS TO ATTEND UMNO + CERAMAHs, + MANY OF THEM WOULD REALISE THE TRUTH AND STRUGGLE ALONGSIDE UMNO MEMBERS

UMNO, HE SAID, WAS THE BIGGEST ISLAMIC PARTY IN THE COUNTRY, WHILE PAS WAS ONLY A SPLITTER ISLAMIC PARTY. -- BERNAMA MORE

MAHATHIR PAS 2 BESUT

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT HIS OFFER TO PAS TO REJOIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO STRUGGLE FOR THE PEOPLE, RELIGION AND NATION WAS FLATLY REJECTED BY THE PARTY'S LEADERS.

PAS LEFT THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN DECEMBER 1977.

HE SAID: "INSPITE OF THEIR ATTITUDE, I AM EXTENDING MY OFFER AND EVEN NOW THE OFFER IS STILL OPEN."

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UMNO WANTED TO SEE THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY STRONG AND UNITED BUT IN ACTUAL FACT THEY WERE NOT DUE TO THE PROPAGANDA SPREAD BY A NUMBER OF PAS LEADERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PAS WAS A SPLINTER ISLAMIC PARTY AND IT CAME ABOUT BECAUSE A NUMBER OF LEADERS DESIRED PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT.

THEY WERE, HE SAID, PREPARED TO ACCUSE OTHERS OF BEING INFIDELS, CRITICISE THE QURAN AND CLAIM THAT THE HOLY BOOK WAS THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION, AND, ON TOP OF ALL THIS, TOLD MUSLIMS TO PRAY IN MOSQUES BEARING THE SYMBOL OF THE PARTY. -- BERNAMA MORE 2049/LK

MAHATHIR - PAS 3 BESUT

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT OF PAS TO BRAND UMNO MEMBERS INFIDELS BECAUSE THAT RIGHT BELONGED TO GOD.

THE ACT OF USING THE QURAN AS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PARTY WAS THE ULTIMATE INSULT TO THE HOLY BOOK AND A BLASPHEMY BECAUSE A CONSTITUTION IS THE CREATION OF MAN WHILE THE QURAN IS A CONSTITUTION IS THE CREATION OF MAN WHILE THE QURAN IS THE WORK OF GOD.

THE ACCUSATIONS THAT WERE HURLED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE APPROACHING ELECTIONS WERE NOT THE ACTIONS OF PAS MEMBERS, HE SAID, BUT THOSE OF ITS LEADERS SOME OF WHOM, ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WERE FRUSTRATED.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT THEIR MASTER.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY, WORK FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, AND IT WOULD NOT CONCEAL THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH FROM THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA MORE

MAHATHIR - PAS 4 BESUT

TO UMNO MEMBERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE THE WARNING NOT TO REPEAT +THE ACTION OF STABBING A FRIEND IN THE BACK+ ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PARTY WAS FACING THE ELECTIONS.

HE SAID THE BITTER EXPERIENCE AND THE DEFEAT OF UMNO IN CERTAIN CASES IN KEDAH IN THE 1974 AND 1978 ELECTIONS SHOULD BE A LESSON ON THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SUCH ACTION'S.

IN CERTAIN CASES IN THE PAST ELECTIONS, UMNO MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT NOMINATED CONTESTED AS INDEPENDENTS AGAINST UMNO CANDIDATES CAUSING THE SEATS TO FALL INTO PAS HANDS.

UMNO WOULD NOT LOSE IN THE ELECTIONS IF ITS MEMBERS WERE UNITED BUT IT WOULD LOSE IF THEY WERE DIVIDED HE SAID.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT SPOKE OF THE DANGER TO UMNO'S FUTURE IF ITS MEMBERS WERE RULED BY DESIRE AND STRIVED ONLY FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS . -- BERNAMA MORE 2130/MK

MAHATHIR - PAS 5 BESUT

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO SEE CONSPIRACIES AND SQUABBLES IN UMNO BECAUSE THIS COULD TURN UMNO INTO A SMALL PARTY AND ULTIMATELY A PARTY OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

HE SAID THAT UMNO HAD NOT ONLY REMAINED STRONG BUT ALSO GREW FROM TIME TO TIME BECAUSE IT WAS DISCIPLINED AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS DISCIPLINE THAT THE PARTY HAD CONTINUED TO BE THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND HAD BROUGHT DEVELOPMENT TO ALL THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT UMNO WAS DISCIPLINED BECAUSE IT WAS WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND BECAUSE OF THAT WILLINGNESS IT HAD BROUGHT BENEFITS TO ALL.

ON THE DELEGATES' MEETING HE OPENED TODAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DIRECTED THAT ALL ITS PROCEEDINGS BE POSTPONED TO A DATE AFTER THE ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL.

IN HIS SPEECH TODAY AT THE OPENING, TRENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD SAID THE CHOICE OF MALAYSIA AS THE SITE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF ISLAM.

THE BESUT UMNO DIVISION LEADER, DATUK ZAKARIA ABDUL RAHMAN, WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MANPOWER, SAID MANY LOCAL PAS MEMBERS HAD LEFT THAT PARTY AND JOINED UMNO. -- BERNAMA