

MAHATHIR R'R'R'
BM

83
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 27 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH AN EMERGING TREND AMONG UMNO MEMBERS OF BEING MORE REWARD-ORIENTED THAN INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO UMNO MALAYSIA PRESIDENT, SAID THAT IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THIS KIND OF MENTALITY WOULD COORODE SOCIETY AND LEAD TO DOWNFALL OF THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THIS IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF MERDEKA, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UMNO MALAYSIA PARTY.

HE SAW THE ATTITUDE AS A RESULT OF THE NOTION BY UMNO MEMBERS THAT THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE HAD NOW FULFILLED ITS OBJECTIVES.

"MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW MORE CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF THE REWARD AVAILABLE TO THEM THAN IN THE STRUGGLE ITSELF." -- BERNAMA MORE 1843/LK

N124: (F)
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THE STRUGGLE WAS NOT OVER YET AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT "WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST OUR SPIRIT AND OUR SENSE OF DIRECTION AFTER INDEPENDENCE."

"WHEN WE GOT INDEPENDENCE, WE THOUGHT OUR WORK WAS OVER.

"IT SEEMS THAT WE THEN STARTED THINKING ABOUT HOW WE CAN REAP THE BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM IT."

HE EXHORTED UMNO MEMBERS TO RESIST THE TREND TOTALLY AND TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF UMNO'S FUNDAMENTAL STRUGGLE IN THEIR BREAST.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UMNO IN THE PAST NEVER SERVED FOR REWARD BUT FOR PRESERVING THE HONOUR AND RESPECT OF THE RACE.

THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT WANT THE HONOUR OF THE MALAYS TO SUFFER BECAUSE UMNO MEMBERS ALLOWED SELF-INTEREST TO DOMINATE THEIR CONSIDERATION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1859/LK

N131: (F)
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE QUOTED THE CASE OF THE UHUD WAR IN ISLAMIC HISTORY, IN WHICH GREED AND INDISCIPLINE LEAD TO THE EVENTUAL DEFEAT OF THE ISLAMIC ARMY WHICH WAS EARLIER POISED FOR A VICTORY OVER THEIR ENEMIES.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS 'HAPPY' THAT THERE WAS STILL DISCIPLINE IN UMNO ALTHOUGH CONCEDED THAT IT APPEARED TO BE 'DETERIORATING.'

HE STRESSED TO UMNO MEMBERS THAT PARTY DISCIPLINE AND UNITY HAD ALL ALONG BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF THE PROGRESS AND STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED REWARD-ORIENTED ATTITUDES WOULD NOT DESTROY THIS DISCIPLINE AND UNITY.

THERE WAS ALSO A PRESSING NEED FOR STRENGTHENING AND TIGHTENING OF DISCIPLINE AMONG COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

-- BERNAMA 1918/LK