

82 (P)
 JOHORE BAHRU: JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) -- /DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MORAMAD) TOLD UMNO MEMBERS TODAY THAT CHANGES IN THE PARTY ARE UNAVOIDABLE ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES THEY MAY BE HARD TO ACCEPT.

HOWEVER, CHANGES WERE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE PARTY'S STRENGTH TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF TIME AND SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF RACE, RELIGION AND THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UMNO'S NATURITY AS A POLITICAL PARTY DEPENDED ON THE ABILITY OF ITS MEMBERS TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO CHANGES.

OPENING THE JOHORE BAHRU UMNO DIVISION'S DELEGATES MEETING HERE, HE SAID THAT PEOPLE NORMALLY PREFERRED TO STICK TO ROUTINE AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO CHANGES.

HOWEVER, THE PROCESS OF CHANGE -- IN THE PARTY AND IN FACT THE WHOLE NATION -- WAS UNAVOIDABLE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1500/SZ

NO47 (F)

MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 JOHORE BAHRU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE THE LIFE THEY HAD BEEN USED TO FOREVER FOR THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF MATURITY AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS.

THOSE WHO FAILED TO ADJUST WOULD BE BESET WITH PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THAT UMNO, WHICH WAS NOW 36 YEARS OLD, TOO HAD TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF CHANGE IN THE FORM OF ITS STRUGGLE.

WHEN IT WAS STILL YOUNG, IT WAS UMNO'S STRUGGLE TO OPPOSE THE FORMATION OF THE MALAYAN UNION. LATER, ITS STRUGGLE WAS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY.

+OUR STRUGGLE NOW MUST AGAIN CHANGE, FOR MALAYSIA IS NO LONGER A REMOTE COUNTRY WHICH CARES NOT FOR WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1503/SZ

NO48 (F)

MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 JOHORE BAHRU

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FOR UMNO TO ACCEPT CHANGES TO MAINTAIN ITS STRENGTH TO FIGHT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS IN PARTICULAR AND THOSE OF THE RELIGION AND NATION.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE PARTY NOT BECAUSE THE SERVICES OF THE OLDER LEADERS WERE NOT APPRECIATED BUT BECAUSE NEW LEADERS HAD TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE OVER IN FUTURE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE PARTY NEEDED TO GROOM LEADERS WHO WOULD CARRY ON WITH THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE.

HE ALSO REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS THAT THE PARTY'S ELECTION VICTORY, IN KEDAH FOR EXAMPLE, WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT, NOT THAT OF PARTY MEMBERS ALONE.

IT UMNO WERE TO DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS ALONE, WHO MAKE UP ONLY 10 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORATE IN CERTAIN AREAS, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE PARTY COULD WIN. -- BERNAMA MORE 1507/SZ

NO49 (F)

MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 JOHORE BAHRU

+HOWEVER, WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE SYMPATHISE WITH UMNO ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE ACTIVE IN THE PARTY,+ HE SAID.

SUCH SUPPORT WAS VALUED HIGHLY AND UMNO WOULD ALWAYS GIVE THESE PEOPLE DUE CONSIDERATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD MEMBERS TO ALWAYS ABIDE BY THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION TO MAINTAIN UMNO'S UNITY.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE MUST BE DISCIPLINE IN THE PARTY, IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP TO TURN IT INTO A MILITARY ORGANISATION WHOSE MEMBERS ONLY KNOW HOW TO SALUTE.

--- BERNAMA MORE 1510/SZ

MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 JOHORE BAHRU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT JOHORE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN UMNO FORTRESS.

HE CONGRATULATED THE STATE BARISAN NASIONAL FOR THE 100 PER CENT SUCCESS IT SECURED IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, MENTERI BESAR DATUK AJIB AHMAD AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY DATUK SHAHRIR SAMAD.

--- BERNAMA 1512/SZ