

MAHATHIR 'R' 'R' (F)

83 (P)  
SLIM RIVER, AUG. 1 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WHICH TRIED TO CHANGE GOVERNMENT POLICIES BY USING FOREIGN GROUPS AND PEOPLE.

THESE LOCAL GROUPS WOULD TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT ABROAD AND CALL THE ATTENTION THE FOREIGNERS TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS POLICIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE FOREIGNERS WHO WERE LIMITED IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT COULD SEE ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

OPENING THE NEW TANJUNG MALIM UMNO DIVISION BUILDING HERE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF SECURITY WAS ONLY TO SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY AND FUTURE OF THE PEOPLE.

+HOWEVER, WHILE WE ARE TRYING TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST THREAT, WHICH IS THE MAIN THREAT TO THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE CERTAIN QUARTERS WHICH ARE DISTORTING THE GOOD GOVERNMENT'S GOOD INTENTIONS. - MORE 1237/BW

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+WE WANT THE WORLD TO JUDGE US AFTER HEARING THE PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING BUT THEY SHOULD NOT GIVE US INSTRUCTIONS. INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD COME ONLY FROM THE PEOPLE.

+THE PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS AND THE CHOICE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE PEOPLE SUPPORT ITS POLICIES AND STAND.

+AS SUCH, IT IS NOT FAIR FOR GROUPS THAT WERE DEFEATED IN THE ELECTION TO USE OTHER GROUPS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TO TRY AND CHANGE GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

+IF THE PEOPLE FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT POLICIES IMPLEMENTED SO FAR HAVE NOT BEEN CORRECT, THEY CAN CHANGE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN AN ELECTION.

+HOWEVER, I AM QUITE SURE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICIES IT HAD IMPLEMENTED, IS IMPLEMENTING AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTING+, HE SAID.

--MORE 1250/AN

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT UMNO PRESERVED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY ON ITS OWN WITHOUT ANY AIDANCE FROM EXTERNAL QUARTERS.

+IF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT FAIL TO DO THIS AND WE ARE FORCED TO DEPEND ON FOREIGNERS, IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE COUNTRY IS NO LONGER INDEPENDENT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, PRAISED THE BTEP TAKEN BY THE TANJUNG MALIM UMNO DIVISION LEADER, HAJI R.M. IDRIS, WHO HAD STEPPED DOWN FROM HIS POST VOLUNTARILY TO MAKE WAY FOR A YOUNGER PERSON.

THIS MOVE, HE SAID, WAS IN LINE WITH EFFORTS TO CREATE A SECOND LINE OF LEADERS TO ENABLE UMNO REMAIN THE MAIN MALAY ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE HOPED THAT OTHER LEADERS WHO WERE INFIRM AND WHO WERE NO LONGER EFFECTIVE TO EMULATE HAJI IDRIS' EXAMPLE BY GIVING THE YOUNGER LEADERS A CHANCE TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP.

--MORE 1326/HM

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ON THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN KUALA LUMPUR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE BUILDING FUND STOOD AT \$200,000, SINCE THE CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT DONATIONS FROM PARTY MEMBERS WAS LAUNCHED TWO YEARS AGO.

HE HOPED THAT THE FIGURE WOULD INCREASE AS THERE WERE 750,000 PARTY MEMBER.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE \$200,000 BUILDING WERE DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOHAMED HAJI WAN TEH AND LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTER DATUK MAK HON KAM. --BERNAMA 1328/HM