

MAHATHIR-UMNO
(BM)

BANTING, AUG. 8 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO HAS NO PLACE FOR SELF-SEEKING PEOPLE WHO JOIN THE PARTY WITH THE INTENTION OF SECURING POSITIONS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE INVITATION TO ALL MALAYS INCLUDING PAS MEMBERS TO JOIN THE PARTY WAS TO UNITE THE MALAYS AND AVERT A SPLIT AMONG MUSLIMS, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE DELEGATES' MEETING OF THE KUALA LANGAT UMNO DIVISION HERE.

HE SAID THAT MALAYS WERE STILL IN A WEAK POSITION, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, AND THAT ONLY BY BEING TRULY UNITED COULD THEY ESCAPE EXPLOITATION BY OTHERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO MALAYSIA PRESIDENT, STRESSED THAT UMNO WOULD NOT SEND OUT OFFICIAL INVITATION CARDS TO PEOPLE TO JOIN THE PARTY.

PEOPLE HOLDING OUT FOR SUCH OVERTURES WERE THOSE WHO WOULD EXPECT SPECIAL PRIVILEGES IN RETURN AND +THERE IS NO PLACE IN UMNO FOR THE TYPE OF PEOPLE.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT HE INVITED PAS MEMBERS TO JOIN UMNO BECAUSE HE SAW THAT THEY WERE CONFUSED AND HAD LOST DIRECTION AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS OF THEIR LEADERS.

-- MORE 1330/41

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HE SAID THAT PAS LEADERS, ENVIOUS OF UMNO'S SUCCESS, HAD CHOSEN UMNO AS THE +ENEMY+ AND WERE MAKING USE OF ISLAM TO DEFEAT UMNO.

THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERATING THE CONTROVERSIES AND CONFLICTS AMONG MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 750,000 PEOPLE, UMNO WAS THE LARGEST MUSLIM PARTY IN THE COUNTRY AND THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN PAS WAS IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL SOME YEARS AGO, ITS LEADERS WERE GIVEN POSITIONS AND PRIVILEGES AND ITS CANDIDATES RETURNED TO SEATS IN MELAKA, NEGERI SEMBILAN AND SELANGOR WITH THE STRONG BACKING OF UMNO.

PAS IN TURN SHOWED ITS GRATITUDE FOR THIS SUPPORT BY SEEKING WAYS AND MEANS TO WEAKEN UMNO.

PAS LEADERS, INCLUDING PAS NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND FORMER LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK ASRI MUDA, USED THEIR POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP BRANCHES IN FELDA SCHEMES AND OTHER PLACES WHERE THEY HAD NO Footholds PREVIOUSLY.

-- MORE 1440/52
NO29 (F)

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IT WAS IRONIC THAT PAS SHOULD NOW MAKE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT UMNO USING GOVERNMENT FACILITIES TO SPREAD ITS INFLUENCE WHEN IT WAS GUILTY OF THE VERY SAME OFFENCE BEFORE.

ON MALAY PROGRESS IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR, HE SAID MALAY BUSINESSMEN MUST BE WILLING TO OFFER HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS TO BE ON A MORE COMPETITIVE LEVEL WITH THE OTHERS.

THEY MUST LEARN TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE AND JOIN TRAINING COURSES IN THE RELEVANT FIELDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT SINCERITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS WERE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN BUSINESS.

ALSO PRESENT WERE UMNO MALAYSIA VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK HAJI HARUN IDRIS WHO WAS RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS HEAD OF THE DIVISION, FORMER SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HORMAT RAFEI AND WANITA UMNO MALAYSIA LEADER DATIN PADUKA HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI. -- BERNAMA 1443/SZ