

PM - UMNO,
BM

33 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 4 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED TODAY THAT A WANING OF MALAY INTEREST IN POLITICS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT UMNO'S STRENGTH AND ROLE AS THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL UMNO LEADERS AND MEMBERS TO ALWAYS KEEP THIS INTEREST ALIVE SO THAT MALAYS WOULD CONTINUE TO RETAIN THEIR POLITICAL POWER IN THE COUNTRY.

OPENING THE SELANGOR UMNO CONVENTION AT THE SELAYANG COMMUNITY HALL, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED THAT THE MALAY RESOLVE TO ACHIEVE THEIR CAUSE THROUGH THE POLITICAL FORUM HAD ENABLED UMNO TO BECOME THE PILLAR OF THE GOVERNMENT EVER SINCE MERDEKA.

+MERE NUMERICAL STRENGTH WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING COMMITMENT IN POLITICS WILL NOT BRING ANY EFFECT.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO MALAYSIA PRESIDENT, HOPED THE MALAY POLITICAL WILL WOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED BY LACK OF POLITICAL INTEREST +OTHERWISE OUR POWER WILL SLIP OUT OF OUR HAND.+ -- MORE 1309/MK

PM-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE STRESSED THAT UMNO DID NOT SEEK POWER AS AN END IN ITSELF BUT AS A MEANS TO AN END, WHICH WAS THE PROMOTION OF INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.

"WE DO NOT WANT POWER FOR ITS OWN SAKE BUT ONLY AS A MEANS FOR MAINTAINING OUR POSITION."

IT WAS NOT UMNO'S PURPOSE TO ASPIRE FOR A SUPREME POSITION BUT ONLY FOR A STATION THAT WAS ITS PROPER DUE.

SINCE MERDEKA, MALAYS HAD PROVEN THEY WERE NOT GREEDY OR POWER-CRAZY, BUT ONLY DESIROUS OF ACHIEVING EQUALITY WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BECOME "SLAVES" IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT DESPITE THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PARTIES OPENING MEMBERSHIP TO MALAYS, IT WAS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT THAT UMNO WAS THE ONLY PARTY THAT TRULY PROMOTED THE CAUSE AND INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.

--- MORE 1432/LK

ND42: (F)
PM-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE URGED UMNO LEADERS AND MEMBERS TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO INDUCT THE YOUNG IN THE SPIRIT OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLES.

EMERGENCE OF AN ECHELON TO SUCCEED THE PRESENT RANKS WOULD ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE CAUSE.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE NECESSITY FOR KEEPING SECRET STRATEGIES TO REINFORCE THE POSITION OF THE PARTY FOR FEAR OF THE KNOWLEDGE FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF ITS ENEMIES.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE STRATEGIES WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO THE STRENGTH AND POSITION OF THE PARTY AS IT WOULD GIVE THE PARTY'S ENEMIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN COUNTERMEASURES.

HOWEVER, THIS NECESSITY HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THERE WERE INSTANCES WHEN MATTERS DISCUSSED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WERE MADE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

"SOMETIMES DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE LEAKED TO THE PRESS EVEN BEFORE I WAS INFORMED," HE SAID.

-- MORE 1436/LK

ND43: (F)
PM-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, HE SAID IT SHOWED THE MALAY COMMUNITY HAD BECOME "SOPHISTICATED" IN THE BREAKING OF SECRETS.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S TONGUE-IN-CHEEK STATEMENT WAS GREETED WITH LAUGHTER BY DELEGATES PRESENT.

NEVERTHELESS HE PRESSED THE POINT, URGING UMNO MEMBERS AND LEADERS TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO REVEAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.

ON ELECTION OF LEADERS OF THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO MOVEMENTS, HE REMINDED MEMBERS NOT TO ALLOW THE CONTEST TO IMPAIR PARTY SOLIDARITY.

-- MORE 1438/LK

PM-UMNO 5 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, SELANGOR UMNO LIAISON CHIEF DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI ALL SAID NUMBER OF UMNO BRANCHES IN THE STATE THIS YEAR INCREASED TO 438 WITH 105,328 MEMBERS COMPARED WITH 446 WITH 99,903 MEMBERS LAST YEAR.

THE PERFORMANCE WOULD IMPROVE UNDER THE DYNAMIC 2M LEADERSHIP, HE ADDED.

DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI, WHO IS SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR, SAID ALL UMNO MEMBERS IN THE STATE ACCEPTED THE CHANGES THAT HAD OCCURRED IN THE INTERESTS OF PROGRESS OF THE PARTY.

THE ONE-DAY CONVENTION DISCUSSED A WORKING PAPER TITLED "DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY OF UMNO IN HANDLING AND FACING NATIONAL POLITICS."

A TOTAL OF 320 DELEGATES INCLUDING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED THE CONVENTION.

-- BERNAHA 1535/LK