

MAHATHIR - UMNO
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KUALA KERAI, APRIL 16 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED ALL UMNO MEMBERS TO UPHOLD THE TRADITIONS OF THE PARTY BY PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THEIR TURN TO ADVANCE TO THE TOP IN THE INTERESTS OF PRESERVING PARTY UNITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PARTY OPERATED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, THIS DID NOT MEAN ANYONE COULD ACT AS HE LIKED.

'DEMOCRACY PER SE MIGHT NOT BRING SUCCESS TO THE PARTY OR COUNTRY WITHOUT PEOPLE ALSO KNOWING WHAT SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT BE DONE,' HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE DELEGATES' MEETING OF THE HULU KELANTAN UMNO DIVISION HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WHO IS HEAD OF THE DIVISION, MENTERI BESAR DATUK MOHAMED YAKOB AND HIS DEPUTY, HAJI ARIFFIN SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN ALL PARTY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ELECTION OF LEADERS AT THE UPPER AS WELL AS DIVISIONAL LEVELS, THE TRADITIONS THAT HAD BECOME THE BADGE OF UMNO SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1946 MUST BE RESPECTED. -- MORE 1605/MB

MAHATHIR - UMNO 2 KUALA KERAI

+CERTAINLY WE CAN CHANGE LEADERS OF DIVISIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, TENGGU RAZALEIGH WHO HAS BEEN LEADING THIS DIVISION FOR 22 YEARS, IF WE FEEL THEY SHOULD BE REPLACED,+ HE ADDED IN A LIGHTER VEIN.

HE REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS THAT IN ANY LEADERSHIP CONTEST, THERE WERE BOUND TO BE +SMEAR CAMPAIGNS+ AND THAT THESE WOULD BE DIVISIVE FOR THE PARTY FOR WHICH UNITY WAS ITS LIFE'S BLOOD.

HE QUOTED AS AN EXAMPLE THE TIME WHEN HE WAS THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HAD TO WAIT HIS TURN TO SUCCEED TO THE NUMBER ONE POST.

+I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR MY TURN TO COME ROUND AND I DID NOT KNOW THEN THAT TUN HUSSEIN ONN WAS NOT THAT WELL - I WAS SATISFIED WITH THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS THE SALARY WAS ONLY \$1,000 LESS THAN THAT OF THE PRIME MINISTER,+ JOKED TO THE VAST AMUSEMENT OF THE 5,000-ODD UMNO MEMBERS PRESENT.

ADVISING UMNO MEMBERS TO +WAIT PATIENTLY FOR YOUR TURN+ HE HOPED NO UMNO MEMBER WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR SELF-SEEKING REASONS. -- MORE 1705/OM

MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA KERAI

HE WAS PROUD THAT SUCCESSION IN THE UMNO LEADERSHIP HAD PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY SINCE THE TIME OF TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN BECAUSE UMNO MEMBERS THEMSELVES APPRECIATED UNITY AS THE TRADITION OF THE PARTY.

HE HOPED OTHER UMNO LEADERS FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE OF PAST LEADERS IN WITHDRAWING GRACEFULLY IF THEY THOUGH THEY WERE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO BE LIKE LEADERS OF ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP THEIR POWER AND STOOPED TO ALL SORTS OF PLOYS TO RETAIN THEIR POSITION.

HE ASKED THEM TO SINCERELY FOLLOW HIS ADVICE, SAYING THAT UNITY WAS CRUCIAL FOR UMNO, AND THAT WITHOUT UNITY, UMNO WOULD FALL AND WITHOUT UMNO, THE COUNTRY WOULD FALL.

HE STRESSED THAT PARTY SOLIDARITY SHOULD NOT BE MERE LIP SERVICE OR WINDOW DRESSING. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF UNITY AND MEET ITS CONDITIONS. -- MORE 1712/OM

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MAHATHIR - UMNO 4 KUALA KERAI

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO REGARD THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PARTY +LIGHTLY+ BUT TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO THEM TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF NOT ONLY THE MALAYS BUT ALSO THE NON-MALAYS.

THE STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY UP TO DATE WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH UNITY AMONG UMNO MEMBERS AND THIS UNITY SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

HE REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS THAT MANY POLITICAL PARTIES HAD FAILED BECAUSE MEMBERS DID NOT LIVE UP TO THE SPIRIT AND OBJECTIVE OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONS.

ON THE EXISTENCE OF MANY ISLAMIC-BASED POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID THEY WERE SET UP BY PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO BE LEADERS BUT WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER PARTIES.

THESE PEOPLE THEM GATHERED FOUR OR FIVE MEMBERS AND FOUNDED A NEW PARTY. -- MORE 1715/OM

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MAHATHIR - UMNO 5 KUALA KERAI

+WE HAVE ONLY ABOUT FIVE MILLION MALAYS AND IF A MILLION PARTIES ARE TO BE SET UP, WE WILL BE RUNNING INTO PRESIDENTS OF PARTIES EVERYWHERE,+ HE QUIPPED.

+IN TIME, WE WOULD RUN OUT OF RED CARPETS TO WELCOME VISITS OF LEADERS AND HAVE ONLY FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO ROLL OUT THE CARPETS BECAUSE ALL THE REST WOULD BE PRESIDENTS. +-- BERNAMA 1717/OM