

MAHATHIR
BM

83 (P)
KULAI, APRIL 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TODAY HIT OUT AT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR CAMPAIGN TO UNDERMINE MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THROUGH UNTRUTHS PUBLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINES.

THESE COUNTRIES WERE ENVIOUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY MALAYSIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE NINTH DELEGATES MEETING OF THE RENGAM UMNO DIVISION HERE.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD FACED ECONOMIC RECESSION MALAYSIA HAD ACHIEVED OUTSTANDING PROGRESS.

ITS ECONOMY HAD GROWN EVEN THOUGH IT ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN MARKETING ITS PRIMARY COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER, TIN AND PEPPER, HE ADDED.

AS THEY WERE UNEASY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY MALAYSIA, THESE COUNTRIES HAD, USED THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINES TO PUBLISH UNTRUTHS ABOUT IT TO UNDERMINE ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

-- MORE 1321/LK

MAHATHIR 2 KULAI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THESE MAGAZINES GAVE THE IMPRESSION THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS NOT AS GOOD AS IT APPEARED.

THEY CLAIMED THAT POLITICAL LEADERS WERE IN CONFLICT ESPECIALLY ON THE QUESTION OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

THE PICTURE PAINTED WAS THAT ONLY ONE LEADER IN THE COUNTRY WAS "OBSESSED" WITH THE POLICY WHILE THE OTHER LEADERS REJECTED IT.

THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS TO SABOTAGE THE LOOK EAST POLICY, HE SAID.

"THEY ARE NOT HAPPY BECAUSE THEY WILL LOSE OUT IN ECONOMIC TERMS AS WELL AS IN INFLUENCE," HE SAID.

THE FOREIGNERS HAD TRIED TO CONVINCED THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY THAT THE POLICY WAS UNSUITABLE FOR THEM ESPECIALLY THE MALAYS AND PORTRAYED THE MALAYS AS BEING LAZY AND INCAPABLE OF WORKING HARD LIKE THE JAPANESE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

-- MORE 1450/NB

MAHATHIR 3 KULAI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, URGED PARTY MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH LIES.

HE SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN DUPED BY SUCH PROPAGANDA.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE SOME 26 YEARS AGO, IT HAD DEVELOPED RAPIDLY AND BEYOND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS.

PEOPLE OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS HAD JOINED HANDS TO BUILD THE COUNTRY INTO A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NATION.

THE VALUE OF THE RINGGIT WAS GAINING IN STRENGTH AGAINST CURRENCIES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. COMPARED WITH THE POUND STERLING ALONE, THE RATE OF EXCHANGE OF \$5.30 TO THE POUND A FEW YEARS AGO WAS NOW ONLY \$3.60, HE SAID.

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY HAD EXPECTED MALAYSIA TO COLLAPSE AFTER ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE BUT THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT GIVE UP AND WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS 'TO BRING ABOUT COLLAPSE OF MALAYSIA'. -- MORE 1500/MB

ZCZC NO46 (F)
MAHATHIR 4 KULAI

THE EFFORTS MIGHT BEAR FRUIT IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN SOWING DOUBT AMONG UMNO PARTY LEADERS, HE SAID.

DIFFERENCES ON GOVERNMENT POLICY AMONG UMNO LEADERS WOULD WEAKEN UMNO AND THIS IN TURN WOULD WEAKEN THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE GOVERNMENT.

MAHATHIR 3 KULAI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, URGED PARTY MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH LIES.

HE SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN DUPED BY SUCH PROPAGANDA.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE SOME 26 YEARS AGO, IT HAD DEVELOPED RAPIDLY AND BEYOND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS.

PEOPLE OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS HAD JOINED HANDS TO BUILD THE COUNTRY INTO A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NATION.

THE VALUE OF THE RINGGIT WAS GAINING IN STRENGTH AGAINST CURRENCIES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. COMPARED WITH THE POUND STERLING ALONE, THE RATE OF EXCHANGE OF \$5.30 TO THE POUND A FEW YEARS AGO WAS NOW ONLY \$3.60, HE SAID.

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY HAD EXPECTED MALAYSIA TO COLLAPSE AFTER ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE BUT THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT GIVE UP AND WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS 'TO BRING ABOUT COLLAPSE OF MALAYSIA'. -- MORE 1500/MB

ZCZC N046 (F)
MAHATHIR 4 KULAI

THE EFFORTS MIGHT BEAR FRUIT IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN SOWING DOUBT AMONG UMNO PARTY LEADERS, HE SAID.

DIFFERENCES ON GOVERNMENT POLICY AMONG UMNO LEADERS WOULD WEAKEN UMNO AND THIS IN TURN WOULD WEAKEN THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THESE COUNTRIES +HAD A LONG-STANDING GRUDGE+ AGAINST MALAYSIA AND WOULD CONTINUE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY IT IF THE PEOPLE WERE NOT CAREFUL.

HE PRAISED THE STRENGTH OF THE JOHOR UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL.

HE HOWEVER ADVISED PARTY SUPPORTERS NOT TO REST ON THEIR LAURELS BUT TO CONCENTRATE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE MENTERI BESAR DATUK ABDUL AJIB AHMAD AND LEADERS OF OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH, LATER RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR. -- BERNAMA