

MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION

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TEMERLOH, MAY 2 (BERNAMA) --- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD ALL UMNO MEMBERS TODAY TO ABIDE BY THE PARTY CONSTITUTION AND NOT TO THINK THAT THE DEMOCRACY PRACTISED BY THE PARTY MEANT THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO CONTEST FOR ANY POST WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS OR EFFECT ON THE PARTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THE TRADITIONS BY WHICH THE PARTY CONSTITUTION OPERATED AND REFRAIN FROM BEING MOVED SOLELY BY THEIR OWN DESIRES AND INTERESTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, STRESSED THAT DEMOCRACY MEANT ALL UMNO MEMBERS MUST RESPECT THE WISHES AND FEELINGS OF THE MAJORITY IN WHOM THE PARTY'S STRENGTH LAY.

+IF SOMEONE REPRESENTS THE MINORITY VOICE, MEMBERS SHOULD DISREGARD HIS OPINION AND INSTEAD CONCEDE TO MAJORITY SENTIMENTS - OTHERWISE THE PARTY WILL BE DESTROYED+, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE 31ST DELEGATES MEETING OF THE TEMERLOH UMNO DIVISION HERE.

+A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WILL GIVE UMNO MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS BUT THE PRIVILEGE MUST BE NECESSARILY LIMITED TO BE OF REAL BENEFIT TO MEMBERS+. -- MORE 1400/00

ZCZC N022 (F/S)

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+UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE VIEW THAT THE DEMOCRACY CHERISHED BY THE PARTY MEANT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN ANY CONTEST WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHER PEOPLE OR THE EFFECT ON THE PARTY+, HE ADDED.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS THAT HE IMPRESSED UPON UMNO MEMBERS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING PARTY TRADITIONS AND WAITING FOR THEIR TURN TO ADVANCE TO THE TOP IN THE INTERESTS OF PARTY UNITY.

IN A SPEECH AT KUALA KERAI ON APRIL 16, HE HAD SAID THAT IN ANY PARTY ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ELECTION OF LEADERS AT BOTH THE UPPER AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS, TRADITIONS OF UMNO MUST BE UPHELD.

AT TODAY'S FUNCTION, HE TOLD SOME 2,000 UMNO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS PRESENT THAT UMNO LEADERS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THEIR POWER TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY DID NOT CONFER ON THEM THE CARTE BLANCHE TO DO ANYTHING THEY WANTED WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE VIEWS OF OTHER PEOPLE AND THE TRADITIONS OF THE PARTY.

+THIS STATEMENT IS NOT MADE TO DEFEND MY POSITION OR POSITION OF ANYONE BUT TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE OF UMNO+, HE SAID TO APPLAUSE FROM THE DELEGATES. -- MORE 1502/00

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HE REITERATED HIS DECLARATION AT KUBANG PASU YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING UMNO PRESIDENT FOR LIFE AND THAT HE WOULD STEP DOWN IF NO LONGER WANTED BY THE MEMBERS.

HE HOPED ALL UMNO LEADERS ACCEPTED THE DAY WHEN THEY SHOULD STEP DOWN AND RELINQUISHED THEIR POSITION WITHOUT HAVING TO BE FORCED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE PAHANG UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE, SAID THAT PAHANG NOT TOO LONG AGO WAS THE SCENE OF TURMOIL WHEN SOME PEOPLE FOUGHT +TOOTH AND NAIL+ TO RETAIN THEIR POSITION.

+APART FROM THIS, THEY ALSO RECRUITED OUTSIDE INFLUENCE AND SPENT THOUSANDS OF RINGGIT FROM THEIR OWN POCKETS .... THIS IS SURELY BAD FOR UMNO+, HE SAID.

HE HOPED LEADERS WHO WERE NO LONGER WANTED WOULD NOT BROOD OVER THEIR FATE, SAYING THAT HE

HE HOPED LEADERS WHO WERE NO LONGER WANTED WOULD NOT BROOD OVER THEIR FATE, SAYING THAT HE HAD HEARD OF CASES OF +PEOPLE WHO HAVE STEPOPED DOWN GOING INTO THEIR ROOMS AND LOCKING THEMSELVES IN TO SULK+.

+I MYSELF FEEL LIKE SULKING SOMETIMES BUT SUPPORT FOR ME TO CONTINUE WITH MY SERVICES PREVENTED ME FROM DOING SO+, HE ADDED TO LAUGHTER FROM THOSE PRESENT. -- MORE 1641/0D

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HE STRESSED ON THE NED FOR ALL UMNO MEMBERS TO INTERPRET THE PARTY CONSTITUTION CORRECTLY, SAYING THAT A CONSTITUTION OR LAWS ALONE COULD NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS OF ANY ORGANIZATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY SHOULD OPERATE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SAME HELD TRUE FOR THE COUNTRY -- LEGISLATION AND CONSTITUTION ALONE WOULD NOT GUARANTEE PEACE FOR MALAYSIA.

MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAD BETTER CONSTITUTIONS BUT THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO MAKE THEIR CONSTITUTIONS A WORKING REALITY.

+ALL NATIONS ARE PROUD OF THEIR DEMOCRACY AND THERE ARE SOME WHO CALL THEMSELVES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS WHILE OTHERS PROFESS TO BE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES BUT THEY ARE NOT AT ALL DEMOCRATIC AND DO NOT PRACTISE WHAT THEY PREACH.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID UMNO SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT NO ONE COULD DENY THE PARTY HAD SUCCEEDED IN ITS ENDEAVOURS BECAUSE OF WISE USE OF POWERS BY MEMBERS. --MORE 1458/MD

ZCZC N025  
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HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF ALL MUSLIMS ESPECIALLY UNDERSTOOD THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION, THEY WOULD SUCCEED.

UNFORTUNATELY HOWEVER THERE WERE SOME AMONG THEM WHO INTERPRETED THE CONSTITUTION ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN FANCY.

HE ADVISED ALL MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS, TO CONSOLIDATE UNITY IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY WERE +NEWCOMERS OR OLD MEMBERS OR HIGH-RANKING OR LOW-RANKING.+

+I WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE UMNO MEMBERS WITH STRINGS OF DEGREES FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO LEAVE THEIR DEGREES AT HOME AND WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF UMNO,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK NAJIB TUN RAZAK WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE, FOREIGN MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE AND DEPUTY TRADE AND INDUST

MINISTER ENCIK SABARUDDIN CHIK WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF THE DIVISION. --BERNAMA 1505/MD