

MAHATHIR - UMNO
BM

83 (P)
SEREMBAN, MAY 22 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD,
HIT OUT TODAY AT THOSE PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED THAT THE UMNO LEADERS ARE
NOW BUSY CAMPAIGNING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN VIEW OF THE
PARTY ELECTION NEXT YEAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE PEOPLE HAD ALLEGED THAT LEADERS
WERE TRAVELLING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND USING THE DIVISIONAL
DELEGATES MEETINGS TO CAMPAIGN FOR THEMSELVES.

HE WAS OPENING THE MANTIN DIVISION UMNO DELEGATES CONFERENCE
HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE LEADERS
TO OPEN THE DELEGATES MEETINGS WAS A NORMAL PRACTICE IN UMNO. IT WAS
NOT AIMED STRENGTHENING THE POSITION OF THE LEADERS BUT RATHER
ENHANCING THE POSITION OF THE PARTY. -- MORE 1321/MK
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ZCZC N022 (F/S)
MAHATHIR - UMNO 2 SEREMBAN

DATUK DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID IF LEADERS
DID NOT OFFICIATE SUCH FUNCTIONS, THEN THEY WOULD NOT POSSIBLY KNOW
THE MEMBERS AT GRASS ROOT LEVEL AND THERE WOULD BE NO RAPPORT BETWEEN
THEM THUS WEAKENING THE PARTY.

+I MYSELF PRACTISE THIS TRADITION WHERE EVERY YEAR I TRY TO
OFFICIATE AT LEAST ONE DELEGATES' CONFERENCE IN EACH STATE,+ HE
SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT FOR A LEADER TO STRENGTHEN HIS
POSITION. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO ENSURE THAT UMNO REMAINED
AS THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL POLITICS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CLOSE RAPPORT BETWEEN LEADERS AND
MEMBERS WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE PARTY UNITY AND THAT THE MEMBERS
DID NOT FEEL NEGLECTED. -- MORE 1336/MK
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ZCZC N023 (F/S)
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 SEREMBAN

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN SOME COUNTRIES THE INTERACTION BETWEEN
THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE WAS LESS AND THE LEADERS MERELY SHOWED
THEIR FACES DURING TIMES OF ELECTION.

+HOWEVER, IN MALAYSIA IT WAS UMNO'S SYSTEM, THAT THE PEOPLE COULD
MEET THEIR LEADERS ANYWHERE ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE BUSY WITH THEIR
TASKS,+ HE ADDED.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF UMNO LEADERS TO MEET
THE ORDINARY MEMBERS HAD BEEN WRONGLY INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT
THEY WERE CAMPAIGNING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED UMNO LEADERS NOT TO BE BOTHERED WITH SUCH ALLEGATIONS AND CONTINUE TO BUILD THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH AND HELP THE MEMBERS.

+I AM THANKFUL THAT UMNO LEADERS ARE NOT FED UP OF ATTENDING THE DELEGATES MEETINGS WHEN INVITED AND I HOPE SUCH ATTITUDE WOULD PREVAIL TO ENSURE UMNO'S POSITION AS THE BACKBONE OF THE RULING PARTY. -- MORE 1340/PA

ZCZC ND24

MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 SEREMBAN

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ALLEGATIONS WERE THE WORK OF CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WERE JEALOUS WITH UMNO'S STRUGGLE WHICH HAD SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE NATION PEACEFUL AND PROGRESSIVE.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE MANY WHO AROUSED ALL SORT OF FEELINGS AMONG THE PEOPLE TOWARDS UMNO BECAUSE IF UMNO COULD BE WEAKENED AND BROKEN THEN THE PROSPERITY NOW ENJOYED BY THE NATION WOULD BE WIPED OUT.

IN HIS SPEECH THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEMOCRACY IN THE PARTY DID NOT MEAN THAT A PERSON COULD CONTEST FOR ANY POST WITHOUT GIVING DUE PRIORITY TO THE NATIONAL AND RAKYAT'S INTEREST.

HE STRESSED THAT WHO BECAME A LEADER WAS A SECONDARY QUESTION, WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCCESS FOR THE NATION.

HE SAID DEMOCRACY GAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL TO CONTEST ANY POST BUT IN THE QUEST FOR IT, THE CONTESTANTS SHOULD NOT USE UNDEMOCRATIC METHODS.

SOME COUNTRIES DID AWAY WITH DEMOCRACY AND ESTABLISHED DICTATORIAL AND AUTOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE THEIR PEOPLE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONSTRAINS AND LIMITATIONS OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1405/PA