

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION

BM

83 (P)
SYAH ALAM, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED THE MALAYS IN PARTICULAR NOT TO BE SWAYED BY LIES SPREAD BY CERTAIN GROUPS THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY BENEFITED ONLY +A FEW+ MALAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MALAYS MUST BE VIGILANT AGAINST THE TACTICS OF THESE GROUPS WHOSE AIM WAS TO BRING ABOUT A FAILURE OF THE NEP.

+NOW OUR POLITICAL ENEMIES TRY TO CREATE DOUBTS ABOUT THE NEW ECONOMIC POLIC. WHICH ACCORDING TO THEM BRING BENEFITS TO ONLY A FEW OF THE MALAYS.

+THESE PEOPLE ALLEGE THAT THE MALAYS WHO BENEFIT FROM THE NEP ARE FRIENDS OF THE UMNO LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY MY FRIENDS,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE SELANGOR UMNO CONVENTION AT ITM HERE.

HE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT IF THE MALAYS WERE PROVOKED BY THE ALLEGATIONS, THIS WOULD GIVE RISE TO FEELINGS OF ANGER, ENVY AND SUSPICIONS WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY.
--MORE 1540/PA

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MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 2 SYAH ALAM

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THESE GROUPS OFTEN QUOTED THE SOCIALIST CLICHE +THE RICH BECOMES RICHER, THE POOR BECOMES POORER+ IN TRYING TO LEND WEIGHT TO THEIR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE NEP.

+FOR ME, SOCIALISM IS NOT FAR DIFFERENT FROM COMMUNISM, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MALAYS WHO ARE INFLUENCED AND CONSIDER THE ALLEGATIONS TO BE TRUE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF BEING INFLUENCED BY THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TACTICS BEING USED, SOME MALAYS BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN THE ALLEGATIONS AND TO THINK THAT +NO WONER SO -AND-SO ARE RICH WHILE I AM STILL AT THIS LEVEL.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, REMINDED THE MALAYS NOT TO RAISE TOO MUCH THE QUESTION OF WEALTH OR PROVERTY AS THIS COULD CREATE ANGER AND DISSATISFACTION AMONG THEIR COMMUNITY
--MORE 1540 PA

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 3 SYAH ALAM

HE WAS SAD THAT SOME MALAYS STILL HAD THE ATTITUDE THAT WHEN THEIR COMMUNITY BECAMES RICH THEY FELT ENVIOUS BUT WHEN OTHER COMMUNITIES BECAME RICH, THEY DID NOT EVEN UTTER A WORD.

HE SAID THAT THEY SHOULD ASK THOSE MAKING THE ALLEGATIONS WHETHER THEY WERE RICH: +IF THEY SAY THEY ARE RICH WHY SHOULD THEY SPEAK THUS... AND IF THEY SAY THEY ARE POOR, ASK IF THE EDUCATION PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS USED TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.+

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE NEP AND OTHER GOVERNMENT POLICIES WERE AIMED AT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND FAIRNESS FOR ALL SECTORS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY WERE RICH OR POOR.

HE STRESSED THAT THE POLICIES WERE AIMED AT BRINGING THE STATUS OF THE MALAYS UP TO THAT OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE

COUNTRY.

+IF THE OTHERS ARE RICH, WE ALSO WANT THE MALAYS TO BECOME RICH, IF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES PROGRESS IN BUSINESS, WE ALSO WANT THE MALAYS TO SIMILARLY ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD.... IN SHORT WE WANT THE MALAYS TO BE ON PAR WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES,+ HE SAID.--MORE 1635/PA
MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 4 SYAH ALAM

HE TOLD THE MALAYS TO THINK RATIONALLY AND IF A MALAY BECAME RICH AS A RESULT OF THE NEP THEY SHOULD NOT FEEL ENVIOUS BECAUSE IT WAS NOT WRONG FOR THAT PERSON TO BECOME RICH.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF A RICH MALAY WAS GIVEN A CONTRACT, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO WERE POOR SHOULD NOT QUESTION THIS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAD MONEY COULD CARRY OUT THE TASK.

+IF WE GIVE A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BIG FACTORY TO A TAXI DRIVER, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT AND VERY CERTAINLY WILL RESULT IN AN +ALI-BABA+ SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MALAYS SHOULD REALISE THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THEY HAD RECEIVED SOME BENEFITS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP.

+IF NOT OURSELVES, OUR CHILDREN OR RELATIVES HAD ENJOYED SCHOLARSHIP, EDUCATION AND BUSINESS FACILITIES AS WELL AS BASIC AMENITIES SUCH AS WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND ROADS AS A RESULT OF THE NEP,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 1646/PA

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 5 SYAH ALAM

HE HOPED THAT UMNO MEMBERS WOULD USE FORA SUCH AS THE CONVENTION TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND OBTAIN CLARIFICATIONS ON CERTAIN PROJECTS OR GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BRING ANY BENEFIT IF THOSE WITH SAME VIEWS DISCUSSED AMONG THEMSELVES ONLY OR IN COFFEESHOPS TO CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT POLICY.

HE FELT THAT THROUGH OPEN DISCUSSIONS, ALL MEMBERS COULD OBTAIN CLARIFICATIONS ON CERTAIN MATTERS AND THIS WOULD ERADICATE ANY DOUBTS OR ONE-SIDED VIEWS.

--BERNAMA 1654/AN