

MAHATHIR
BM

83 (P)
KUALA TERENGGANU, JUNE 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED REGRET THAT LEADERS OF A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY WERE GREEDY AND WANTED TO CREATE A SPLIT AMONG THE MALAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THOSE LEADERS NOW FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON TERENGGANU BECAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO BECOME RICH THROUGH THE STATE'S OIL RESOURCES.

HE SAID THAT THEY AIMED TO MAKE USE OF THE STATE'S RESOURCES IN THE INTEREST OF THE PARTY AND FOR THEIR OWN GAIN.

IN THE PAST, WHEN TERENGGANU WAS BACKWARD AND DID NOT HAVE ANY RICH RESOURCES, THERE WERE MEMBERS FROM THAT PARTY WHO LEFT TO JOIN UMNO BUT NOW THAT THE STATE HAD RICH RESOURCES THEY WERE TRYING TO SEIZE POWER IN THE STATE, HE SAID. -- MORE 1230/0D

ZCZC N039 (F/S)

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

HE SAID THAT WHEN THAT PARTY WAS IN POWER IN KELANTAN, THEY HAD +SOLD+ PART OF THE STATE TO OTHERS AND THEY MIGHT DO THE SAME IF THEY CAME TO POWER IN TERENGGANU.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS OPENING THE KUALA TERENGGANU UMNO DIVISION'S DELEGATES CONFERENCE HERE, SAID THAT UMNO, ON THE OTHER HAND, UTILISED THE STATE'S RESOURCES IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE.

HE REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS TO BE CAREFUL NOW THAT TERENGGANU HAD BECOME THE +FRONTLINE+ AS THE OTHER PARTY HAD CHOSEN THE STATE IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO GAIN POWER.

HE URGED ALL UMNO MEMBERS TO BE UNITED AND TO RESOLVE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE.

HE SAID THAT UNITY AMONG THE MALAYS WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IF UMNO WAS WEAK, THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN TURN BE WEAK AND THE PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER BECAUSE AN UNSTABLE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT ANY PROGRAMME FOR THE PEOPLE. -- MORE 1239/0D

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE OTHER PARTY'S LEADERS WOULD SIMPLY OPPOSE ANY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS BECAUSE TO THEM WHAT WAS IMPORTANT NOT THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE BUT THEIR STRUGGLE.

THEY WERE PREPARED TO SPLIT THE PEOPLE SO LONG AS IT WAS IN THEIR INTEREST, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY CLAIMED THAT THEIR STRUGGLE WAS IN THE NAME OF ISLAM AND USED WORDS FROM THE QURAN TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM WAS TO SECURE COMFORTABLE POSITIONS EVEN THOUGH THEIR ACTIONS MIGHT SPLIT THE MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THOSE TYPES OF LEADERS ONLY SURFACED WHEN THINGS HAD BECOME EASY AFTER UMNO AND ITS PARTNERS HAD STRUGGLED FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY AND PRACTISED THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. -- MORE 1308/II

ZCZC NO41 (F/S)

MAHATHIR 4 KUALA TERENGGANU

HE SAID THAT THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM TO PURSUE THEIR STRUGGLE AND THEIR ACTIONS WERE BECOMING WORSE AND WORSE.

HE SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE OF THAT GROUP DID NOT EXIST DURING THE BRITISH OR JAPANESE OCCUPATION EVEN THOUGH THE MALAYS AND THE MUSLIMS THEN WERE IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION.

NOW, HE ADDED, THEY SURFACED AS IF TO RISE TO THE DEFENCE OF ISLAM.

WHAT THEY WANTED WAS TO SEIZE POWER FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS LED BY THE MUSLIMS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE THREATS THAT AROSE, SUCH AS A SPLIT AMONG THE PEOPLE. -- MORE 1313/II

MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT'S HAVING TO PAY ATTENTION TO THAT GROUP'S STRUGGLE HAD IN SOME WAY AFFECTED EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE LIVING STATUS AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE MALAYS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE SPLIT CREATED BY THAT GROUP WOULD NOT BENEFIT THE MALAYS WHO WERE STILL LAGGING BEHIND THE OTHER COMMUNITIES. -- BERNAMA 1335/II