

MAHATHIR - LEADERS

BM

83
PETALING JAYA, AUG. 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD LEADERS TODAY TO HAVE A DEEPER GRASP OF ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES SO THAT THE PEOPLE WILL BE PROPERLY INFORMED ON THE POLICIES AND NOT REGARD THEM AS MERE SLOGANS.

TAKING THE LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE CONCEPT AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THIS POLICY WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL BUT IT WOULD NOT BRING ANY BENEFIT IF LEADERS RESTRICTED IT TO THE SLOGANEERING LEVEL.

"THE LEADERS MUST SET THE GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW BECAUSE POLICIES CANNOT ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES THROUGH ONLY TALK BUT NOT PRACTICE OF THE VALUES ADVOCATED," HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN LAUNCHING THE "GERAK KERJA 1983" OF TEH WANITA UMNO MOVEMENT FEATURING HANDICRAFT COMPETITIONS, EXHIBITIONS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, A CONVENTION AND A NASYID CONTEST AT THE PILGRIMS COMPLEX IN KELANA JAYA HERE

HE ALSO STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS HAVING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLE AND THE REASON FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO KEEP FROM STRAYING FROM THE ESTABLISHED DIRECTION. -- MORE 15287/II

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MANY LEADERS HAD FORGOTTEN THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS AND STRUGGLES OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND HAD ALLOWED SELF-SERVING CONSIDERATIONS TO DOMINATE THEM.

"IN UMNO FOR INSTANCE THERE MUST ALWAYS BE LEADERSHIP CHANGES BUT THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHILE THERE IS NO LACK OF LEADERS WITH THE CAPABILITY, THERE MIGHT BE AMONG THEM A NEW PROSPECT WHO IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UMNO STRUGGLE," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID LEADERS NEEDED TO ACQUIRE DEEPER INSIGHT AND PERCEPTION OF THE ORIGINS OF UMNO'S STRUGGLE SO THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES ENTRUSTED TO THEM WOULD BRING ABOUT THE GOALS FOR WHICH UMNO WAS FORMED.

HE DID NOT WANT UMNO TO BE LIKE SOME POLITICAL PARTIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH UNDERWENT A CHANGE IN THEIR ORIGINAL SET-UP AND SPLIT INTO TWO OR THREE ENTITIES BECAUSE THEIR LEADERS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND FORGOT THE ORIGINAL STRUGGLE OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF MERDEKA TO MAKE THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE MORE POSITIVE IN IMPROVING THE LIVING STANDARD. -- MORE 1643/II

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THE EFFORT REQUIRED A NEW ATTITUDE TO MODIFY VALUES TO BETTER SUIT THE CURRENT SITUATION.

HE WARNED HOWEVER THAT PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW VALUES WITHOUT THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION WOULD NOT WIN FOR THE COUNTRY THE RESPECT AN ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD.

'WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A SLOGAN OR RALLYING CATCHWORD TO INFUSE ALL QUARTERS WITH THIS NEW SPIRIT AND LEADERS WILL HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.'

HE FEARED THAT IF THE LEADERS THEMSELVES DID NOT UNDERSTAND OR PRACTISE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE REST OF THE POPULATION TO UNDERSTAND OR ACCEPT THE POLICIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EMPHASIZED THAT ALL POLICIES NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THEMSELVES THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE POLICIES.

'WE MUST SUPPORT GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL GAIN BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL GAIN IS TRANSIENT WHILE COMMON BENEFIT IS ENDURING AND ABIDING,' HE SAID. -- MORE 1648/II

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HE SAID IT WAS THE CHIEF DUTY OF LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THE POLITICIANS, TO EXPLAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO THE PEOPLE.

EARLIER, WANITA UMNO MALAYSIA LEADER DATIN PADUKA AISHAH GHANI SAID THE 'GERAK KERJA' PROGRAMME MARKED THE START OF A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME INVOLVING PARTICULARLY UMNO BRANCHES WITH A LARGE MEMBERSHIP.

DATUK SERI DR SITI HASMAH, THE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, LATER GAVE AWAY PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS. -- BERNAMA