

PM - MCA
BM

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE TACTIC OF SEEKING POPULARITY THROUGH RAISING SENSITIVE ISSUES CAN BACKFIRE AND PRODUCE ADVERSE EFFECTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE USAGE OF SENSITIVE ISSUES IN SEEKING POPULARITY "BUT WE IN MALAYSIA CANNOT SPEAK WITH ONE COMMUNITY WITHOUT BEING HEARD BY OTHER COMMUNITIES."

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE 31ST MCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT WISMA MCA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON THE OPPOSITION BY CERTAIN QUARTERS AGAINST VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS LATELY SUCH AS THE "LOOK EAST," "MALAYSIA INCORPORATED" AND "PRIVATISATION" CONCEPTS; THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC AND OTHER GOOD VALUES AMONG THE PEOPLE; AND THE "LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE" AND CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGNS.

HE SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS WERE AIMED AT CREATING A MALAYSIAN IDENTITY THAT REFLECTED THE RESILIENCE AND CAPABILITY OF THE NATION BUT, HE ADDED, "GOOD THINGS ARE NOT EASILY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE WHILE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO WILL OPPOSE THEM." -- MORE
1400/II

ZCZC N054 (F/S)
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"IT IS A SHAME THAT AMONG THOSE WHO OPPOSE ARE THOSE WHO ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND WIDELY EXPERIENCED.

"IT IS A SHAME THAT THEY ALLOW NEGATIVISM TO PREVENT THEM FROM SEEING AND ASSESSING THE BENEFITS OF THE CHANGES," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF STUDIED CAREFULLY WITH AN OPEN MIND, THE CHANGES HAD MORE BENEFITS THAN DEFECTS. EVEN THE DEFECTS COULD BE OVERCOME WITH MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE QUESTION.

"FOR EXAMPLE GHOSTS, IF WE ALWAYS TALKS AND THINK ABOUT GHOSTS, WE WILL NOT ONLY FEEL SCARED BUT THE CHANCES ARE THAT WE WILL MEET THEM EVERYWHERE.

"SUCH PEOPLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING BUT TO LIVE WITH THE GHOSTS OF THEIR OWN CREATION."

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ONE DID NOT BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, HE WOULD NOT FEAR EXCEPT OF THREATS WHICH ACTUALLY EXISTED, HE SAID. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA, THE PEOPLE HAD PLENTY OF FREEDOM BUT THE FREEDOM SHOULD NOT BE MISUSED BY ANYONE OF PURPOSES OPPOSED TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

IN MALAYSIA, WHERE THE POPULATION WAS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES, THERE WERE MANY SENSITIVE ISSUES WHICH, IF NOT HANDLED WITH DIPLOMACY, WOULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAD A PROPER FORUM TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES. SO WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

"IN THIS FORUM WE DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND EXPRESS OUR VIEWS TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS," HE ADDED.

"IN THIS WAY THE PEOPLE DO NOT FEEL AGITATED, POLITICAL STABILITY IS MAINTAINED AND THE BUSINESSMEN, INDUSTRIALISTS AND INVESTORS DO NOT FEEL THREATENED."

HE URGED THE MCA TO LOOK AT ISSUES IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND NOT TO ALLOW SENTIMENTS RULE THEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS LONG AS THERE WERE GROUPS, HOWEVER SMALL THEY WERE, WHICH TOOK A LIGHT VIEW ON NATIONAL UNITY AND HARMONY, THE PEOPLE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT. -- BERNAMA
1415/II