

MAHATHIR
BM

83
ALOR STAR, NOV. 26 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TODAY DENIED RUMOURS THAT HE WOULD BE STEPPING DOWN AS PRIME
MINISTER.

AMIDST THUNDEROUS APPALUSE FROM MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE
WHO PACKED THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM AIRPORT IN KEPALA BATAS
NEAR HERE TO WELCOME HIM, HE PLEDGED TO CONTINUE LEADING THE
COUNTRY SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE NEEDED HIM.

HE ALSO PLEDGED TO CONTINUE STRIVING TO FULFILL THE PEOPLE'S
ASPIRATIONS.

+IT IS NOT I WHO ELECTED MYSELF TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER
BUT THE PEOPLE. THEREFORE I DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESIGN
EXCEPT IF ASKED BY THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID TO THE SHOUPS OF +DON'T,
DON'T+ AND +HIDUP MAHATHIR+.

HE SAID HE WOULD STEP DOWN +WILLINGLY+ IF THE PEOPLE THOUGHT
THAT HE WAS NO LONGER FIT TO LEAD THEM.

+NO ONE COULD ASK ME TO RESIGN FROM MY POST EXCEPT THE PEOPLE,+
HE SAID.

-- MORE 1210/AZ

ZGZC ND16 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 3 ALOR STAR

HE STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA HAD CHOSEN DEMOCRACY AS IT WAS THE
PEOPLE'S WISH FOR THEY KNEW IT WAS THE BEST SYSTEM FOR THEM.

+SINCE THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN PRACTISED, THE PEOPLE HAD ENJOYED
THE BENEFITS IT BROUGHT EVENTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS
WHICH NEEDED TO BE DONE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE SYSTEM THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WANT TO
TAKE AWAY ANYONE'S POWERS BUT WHAT IT WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE WAS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

+WE ALSO WANT TO INSTIL THE FEELING OF LOVE FOR DEMOCRACY AMONG
THE PEOPLE AS ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION,+ HE SAID.

A DEMOCRACY WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO REMOVE LEADERS WHO
THEY THINK WERE UNFIT, HE SAID. -- MORE 1235/SA

ZCZC NO17 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 4 ALOR STAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT TO THE HIS LEADERSHIP COULD NOT BE MEASURED ONLY THROUGH THE VOTES IN THE ELECTION.

+THE REAL SUPPORT IS FROM THE PEOPLE'S OWN FEELINGS AND NOT MERELY FROM THE VOTES AS THEY ARE ONLY PAPERS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE SYSTEM OF +MAJORITY VOICE OVER THE MINORITY+ AS THIS WAS THE PEOPLE'S WISH.

HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO GIVE THEIR CONFIDENCE TO THE LEADERS THEY WANT.

HOWEVER, HE PLEDGED TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE IN FULFILLING THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS.

+THIS IS THE PLEDGE I CAN GIVE YOU THIS MORNING,+ HE SAID TO THE CHEERS OF +HIDUP MAHATHIR.+ -- MORE 1251/SA

MAHATHIR 2 ALOR STAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LIKENED HIMSELF TO A +TOOL+ TO BE USED BY THE PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR WISHES.

+IF THE PEOPLE THINK THIS TOOL IS NO LONGER USEFUL, THEY CAN THROW IT AWAY AND CHOOSE ANOTHER BUT THAT PERSON MUST BE WILLING TO CARRY OUT HIS TASKS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT LAST FOREVER BUT THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD.

+A CITIZEN WHO DIES WOULD BE REPLACED BY TWO OTHERS, THAT IS, IF WE ARE HARDWORKING,+ HE SAID FOLLOWED BY LAUGHTER.

EARLIER, HE SAID THAT HISTORY HAD SHOWN THAT THE PEOPLE WERE THE ONES WHO FOUGHT FOR THEIR OWN DESTINY.

THE BEST EXAMPLE, HE SAID, WAS THE OPPOSITION TO THE FORMATION OF THE MALAYAN UNION WHEN THE PEOPLE GAVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT UNTIL THE BRITISH HAD TO BOW TO THEIR DEMAND.' -- MORE 1225/SA

MAHATHIR 5 ALOR STAR

ON THE MEMORANDUM BY +SPECIFIC PEOPLE+ THAT THE GOVERNMENT REPEAL THE CONSTITUTION, THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT IT WAS PROOF OF THEIR WISH TO SET UP A REPUBLIC HERE.

EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION THE PARTY INVOLVED, POLITICAL OBSERVERS CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS IN REFERENCE TO PAS.

+IN THE MEMORANDUM, THEY MENTIONED THAT THE AMENDMENTS MADE WERE NOT GOOD AND THAT THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE REPEALED.

+THEIR INTENTION WAS THAT AN ABSENCE OF A CONSTITUTION WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO REMOVE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND SET UP A REPUBLIC,+ HE ADDED.

THE GROUP, HE SAID, INSTEAD TRIED TO ALLEGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS THE ONE WHICH WANTED TO SET UP A REPUBLIC.

-- BERNAMA 1255/SA