

MAHATHIR-UMNO

BM

84
KULIM, APRIL 20 (BERNAMA)-- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPOSED THE GROUP OF UMNO MEMBERS WHO WENT AROUND RECRUITING DISSATISFIED MEMBERS TO CONTEST FOR THE PARTY ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT THESE CANDIDATES WERE BACKED WITH MONEY EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN CONTESTING.

+FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THIS GROUP HAS BEEN GOING TO THE BRANCHES TO LOOK FOR THE DISSATISFIED MEMBERS, URGING THEM TO CONTEST AND TO SPREAD LIES, + HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE PADANG SERAI UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN KULIM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IDENTIFIED THE DISSATISFIED GROUP AS THOSE WHO WERE NOT CHOSEN AS CANDIDATES, THOSE WHO HAD CONTESTED BUT HAD LOST AND AS SUCH WERE NOT RE-ELECTED AS DIVISIONAL HEADS, THOSE WHO FELT FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THEIR PLACES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO YOUNGER PEOPLE, AND, SECOND ESCHELON LEADERS WHO COULD NOT WAIT TO TAKE OVER THE PLACES OF THE OLDER LEADERS WHO WERE STILL HOLDING ON TO THEIR POSTS WITH PLACES OF THE OLDER LEADERS WHO WERE STILL HOLDING ON TO THEIR POSTS WITH DISTINCTION. --MORE 1340/PA
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KULIM

HE SAID THE DISSATISFIED GROUPS WERE FOUND EVERY WHERE BUT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT SOME OF THESE GROUPS WERE RECRUITING DISSATISFIED PEOPLE TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS AND TO SPREAD LIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS GROUP HAD PLAYED ON THE SENTIMENTS OF THE DISSATISFIED GROUP IN UMNO IN ORDER TO CREATE COMPETITION IN PLACES OR FOR POSTS WHERE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NONE.

"THE CANDIDATES GET MONEY FOR CONTESTING AND IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUPPORT, THEY WOULD USE UNFAIR TACTICS TO GET VOTES."

HE SAID SUCH TACTICS SHOULD RIGHTLY BE USED IN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SHOULD NOT BE USED IN UMNO'S OWN ELECTIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE UNDESIRABLE INCIDENTS IN UMNO, SAYING THAT THE PARTY DID NOT WISH TO HAVE ACTIVITIES THAT COULD LEAD TO CHAOS. --MORE 1403/AJ

MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KULIM

HE ADVISED MEMBERS NOT TO GET CARRIED AWAY IN THEIR QUEST TO BECOME LEADERS UNTIL THE PARTY WAS PLAGUED WITH DISTURBANCES. HOWEVER, HE SAID "IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST BECAUSE YOU HAVE GOOD REASONS TO DO SO, BY ALL MEANS CONTEST."

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THERE WAS TO BE NO CONTEST AT ALL BUT MERELY THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD ONLY IF NECESSARY.

"IN A DEMOCRACY, THERE SHOULD BE COMPETITION BUT THERE IS A TIME FOR CONTEST AND THERE SHOULD ALSO BE GOOD REASONS FOR HOLDING A CONTEST.

"THE REASONS FOR THE CONTEST SHOULD BE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARTY AND NOT JUST TO BECOME A DIVISION HEAD OR DEPUTY HEAD," HE SAID..

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF EVERYTHING WENT WELL IN THE PARTY, MEMBERS SHOULD NOT CONTEST JUST FOR THE SAKE OF CONTESTING.

"IF ALL THE ONE MILLION UMNO MEMBERS CONTESTED, THEN THERE WILL BE CHAOS IN THE PARTY," HE SAID. --MORE 1430/AJ

ZCZC NO41 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KULIM

HE SAID ALL UMNO MEMBERS WHO PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS COULD CONTEST BUT NOT ALL WOULD WANT TO CONTEST AS THEY KNEW THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE

"WE WANT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE TO CONTEST AND WHEN THEN ONLY WHERE NECESSARY," HE SAID. --BERNAMA 1431/AJ