

MAHATHIR-CANDIDACY

BM

SEREMBAN, MAY 4 (BERNAMA) -- ² DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT NOBODY CAN CONSIDER HIMSELF INDISPENSABLE TO THE RUNNING OF UMNO.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DID NOT WANT MEMBERS TO BASE THEIR CANDIDACY FOR ANY PARTY POSITION ON THE CLAIM THAT UMNO COULD NOT OPERATE WITHOUT THEM.

HE SAID UMNO MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THE VETERANS, MUST NOT FEAR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PARTY WHICH GAVE OPENINGS TO YOUNG BLOOD.

THEY MUST NOT BE MOVED BY LUST TO SEEK REELECTION, HE SAID.

+WE MUST OURSELVES REALISE THAT WE MUST STEP DOWN WHEN THE TIME COMES. NO ONE CAN CLAIM THAT UMNO CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT HIM,+ HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE 14.6 NEGERI SEMBILAN UMNO BUILDING IN JALAN TUAN SHEIKH HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY DIRECTED AT UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK HARUNIDRIS, WHO HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTEST THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY. -- MORE 1555/6L

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE YOUNGER MEMBERS TO LEAD UMNO FUTURE.

+UMNO WILL BE ABLE TO FUNCTION SMOOTHLY EVEN WHEN ALL THE PRESENT LEADERS ARE NO LONGER AT THE HELM,+ HE SAID TO APPLAUSE FROM THE GATHERING WHICH INCLUDED CABINET MINISTERS, MENTERI BESAR AND SEVERAL PARTY VETERANS.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, WAS FOR THE YOUNGER MEMBERS TO BE INCLUCATED WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF UMNO AND AWARENESS OF THE PARTY STRUGGLE SO THAT THE PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE MALAYS WELL WHEN THEY TOOK OVER.

+THE INTEREST SHOWN BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN UMNO SHOULD BE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED, AND THEIR INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTY SHOULD NOT CAUSE THE OLDER MEMBERS TO WORRY.+ HE SAID.

PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS AND THE WELL-BEING OF ALL MALAYSIANS, HE SAID. -- MORE 1740/WS

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EXPRESSING REGRET OVER "UNHEALTHY ASPECTS" OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PARTY ELECTION ON MAY 25 HE URGED CANDIDATES TO TONE DOWN THEIR CAMPAIGN.

HE HOPED THAT UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WOULD ACCEPT DEFEAT CALMLY AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO WERE ELECTED.

HE SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD SUPPORT THE PARTY AND NOT SPECIFIC CANDIDATES IN THE HOPE OF BEING REWARDED.

HE DID NOT WANT MEMBERS TO HAVE THE ATTITUDE THAT CANDIDATES MUST COME TO THEM FOR VOTES.

HE SAID THAT THIS COULD INFLUENCE CANDIDATES INTO MAKING PROMISES WHICH THEY SHOULD NOT MAKE. -- MORE 1640/WS

MAHATHIR-CANDIDACY 4 KUALALUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SA-ID HE REGRETTED & AT SOME UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES IN THE PAST DID NOT TAKE DEFEAT, IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED PLANNING FOR THE CONTEST THREE YEARS AWAY.

HE SAID THAT THE UMNO POLLS WERE TO ENSURE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WAS AN ELECTED LEADERSHIP AND NOT TO ENSURE THAT SPECIFIC CANDIDATES WON.

EVERYONE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE CHOICE WAS LEFT TO THE MEMBERS, AND THEY ELECTED CANDIDATES BASED ON THE RECORD OF SERVICE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL WIN, IF WE HAVE SERVED WELL. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE HAVE NOT SERVED WELL, WE WILL SURELY LOSE," HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THOSE WHO HAD BECOME WELL-OFF OR RICH THROUGH UMNO WOULD SUPPORT THE PARTY AND NOT USE THEIR POSITION TO HELP ONLY SPECIFIC PEOPLE. -- MORE 1717/WS

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EARLIER, LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM SAID THAT ALL UMNO LEADERS SHOULD SINCERELY SUPPORT THE TOP PARTY LEADERSHIP.

HE SAID THAT CERTAIN LEADERS WERE ONLY MAKING A SHOW OF SUPPORT. THESE LEADERS SHOULD STOP THEIR "PLAY ACTING" AND GIVE THEIR UNDIVIDED SUPPORT TO THE TOP LEADERSHIP, HE ADDED.

DATUK RAIS, WHO IS NEGERI SEMBILAN UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE HEAD, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY FOR THE RESILIENCE OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD GIVE PARTY UNITY PRIORITY OVER PERSONAL POPULARITY. -- BERNAMA 1724/WS