

LEAD MAHATHIR - UMNO 84 . 0.

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 22 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS ALTHOUGH UMNO BELONGS TO EVERYBODY, NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DESTROY IT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL AMBITIONS.

IN THIS RESPECT THERE IS A NEED TO UPHOLD THE PARTY TRADITION, HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BERNAMA HERE YESTERDAY.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW IS REPRODUCED SEPARATELY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED WHETHER HIS SUGGESTION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF TRADITION WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A FEAR ON HIS PART FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT STRUGGLE FOR POWER WITHIN THE PARTY.

HE SAID: +BECAUSE THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF DOING THINGS HAD RESULTED IN THE STRENGTH THAT UMNO HAS TODAY, ONE DOES NOT DISCARD TRADITION MERELY BECAUSE IT IS AN OLD TRADITION. AN OLD TRADITION THAT HAS SERVED WELL SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.+ -- MORE 1741/MK
LEAD MAHATHIR - UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE THREE-CORNERED CONTEST FOR THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENCY THIS WEEK AMONG INCUMBENT DATUK MUSA HITAM, FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANZAH AND FORMER BELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY NECESSITY FOR REPEATING HIS VIEWS ON THE MATTER AS HE HAD MADE HIS FEELINGS VERY CLEAR ON MANY OCCASIONS.

HOWEVER, ON BEING PRESSED FURTHER WHETHER OR NOT THE STATEMENT HE MADE DURING LAST YEAR'S UMNO ASSEMBLY THAT HE WAS GETTING ALONG VERY WELL WITH DATUK MUSA MEANT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO WORK WITH ANOTHER PERSON AS DEPUTY PRESIDENT, HE REPLIED

+TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN (FORMER PRIME MINISTER) USED TO SAY IT'S BETTER TO WORK WITH THE DEVIL YOU KNOW THAN THE ANGEL THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.+ -- MORE 4755/MK

LEAD MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION BY SOME UMNO MEMBERS THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA FOR TENGKU RAZALEIGH TO GO FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY ALLOWING DATUK MUSA TO RETAIN HIS POSITION AS BOTH WERE ABLE LEADERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ONE WAY-OUT.

HOWEVER, AS TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS NOT STANDING FOR VICE PRESIDENT, THAT WAS NO LONGER A SOLUTION.

+IT IS OBVIOUS FOR WHAT WAS DONE AFTER THE LAST ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT THAT WE COULD FIND ROOM FOR TWO PEOPLE BUT NOT IN THE SAME SEAT,+ HE SAID.

-- MORE 1815/AZ

LEAD MAHATHIR - UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ON DATUK HARUN'S CONTENTION THAT HIS REASON FOR JOINING THE RACE WAS TO UNITE UMNO MEMBERS WHO WERE NOW SPLIT AS A RESULT OF THE 1981 CONTEST, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT WAS NOT THE SOLE REASON FOR DATUK HARUN'S DECISION.

+OTHER THAN THAT ONE CANNOT FORGET THAT HE IS ALSO CONTESTING BECAUSE WE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE LEADERSHIP AS AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DESCRIBED AS +UNCALLED FOR+ THE CURRENT TREND IN THE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PARTY POSTS DUKRING WHICH ALL SORTS OF TACTICS INCLUDING ARM-TWISTING WERE USED.

+FACTIONAL OR INDIVIDUAL GATHERINGS AND PRESSURES AND TRYING TO CONFINE YOUR STATE TO YOURSELF ONLY AND NOBODY ELSE SHOULD COME, AND USING ARM-TWISTING TACTICS, I THINK IS BAD.+

+FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU HAVE A STATE WHICH DARES NOT VOICE SUPPORT FOR ANYBODY ELSE EXCEPT A PARTICULAR PERSON, THEN OF COURSE IT IS A BAD THING. PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE TO VOICE THEIR FEELINGS.+

ON THE USE OF VIDEO TAPES, CALLING CARDS, BOOKS, BOOKLETS AND PAMPHLETS, HE SAID:

+I THINK IT IS UNCALLED FOR. IT IS A TREND THAT IS BAD. KIND OF TREND THAT WILL LEAD TO MISUSE OF POWER, MISUSE OF MONEY.+ -- MORE 1854/MK

LEAD MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+WHAT YOU SEE TODAY IS RELATIVELY SMALL. IF THIS TREND IS NOT ARRESTED, THE BITTERNESS OF THE FIGHT WILL CERTAINLY DESTROY THE PARTY. IT IS AN UNHEALTHY TREND,+ HE ADDED.

RECALLING THE PROCESS THAT HE HAD UNDERGONE IN 1975 OR 1976, THE PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED THAT THERE HAS NOW A DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE STYLE OF CAMPAIGNING FOR UMNO POSTS.

+AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER, WHEN I STOOD FOR VICE PRESIDENT, I DIDN'T HAVE TO CAMPAIGN AT ALL. I DIDN'T PUBLISH ANY MANIFESTO, I DIDN'T GIVE AWAY THINGS TO PEOPLE BUT I MANAGED TO GET IN,+ HE SAID.

+EVEN THOSE WHO STOOD AGAINST ME OR WHO STOOD FOR THE SAME POST, THERE WAS ONLY A LITTLE BIT OF CAMPAIGNING,+ HE ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, DATUM DR. MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT NOWADAYS CAMPAIGNING FOR UMNO POSTS HAD BECOME RIDICULOUS.

+IT HAS COME TO THE POINT WHERE EVEN GOD HAS BEEN INVOKED IN ORDER TO WIN. I THINK THIS IS IMPROPER,+ HE SAID,

-- BERNAMA 19 10/MB