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MAHATHIR-PAS
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BUTTERWORTH, NOV. 18 (BERNAMA) -- [DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SLAMMED PAS LEADERS FOR SHOWING LACK OF FEAR OF ALLAH BY DARING TO DISTORT THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND FOR WANTING TO SEE THE MALAYS FAIL ECONOMICALLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PAS DID NOT WANT THE MALAYS TO PROGRESS BECAUSE IT KNEW IT WOULD LOSE ITS INFLUENCE ONCE THEY ADVANCED AND WERE IN A BETTER POSITION TO REJECT ITS PROPAGANDA.

OPENING THE BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS EXPO AT KEPALABATAS ABOUT 16 KM FROM HERE, HE URGED MUSLIMS PARTICULARLY UMNO MEMBERS TO ARISE AND OPPOSE PAS AS THEY DID THE BRITISH COLONIALISTS BEFORE.

AS MUSLIMS FAITHFUL TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD NOT REMAIN PASSIVE AND ALLOW PAS TO WEAKEN UMNO.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE POSITION OF MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY IF UMNO BECAME WEAK.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS THAT THOUGH THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE MALAYS HAD IMPROVED THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP), MUCH HAD STILL TO BE DONE TO PLACE THEM ON PAR WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WAS STRIVING TOWARDS THIS GOAL, PAS WAS ATTEMPTING TO SABOTAGE SUCH EFFORTS AND DID NOT WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF MUSLIMS WAS PART OF THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS LEADERS WERE ONLY GOOD AT SEARCHING FOR VERSES IN THE HOLY QURAN AND THE HADIS (TRADITIONS OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD) THAT THEY COULD USE TO CONVINCE THE MALAYS THAT GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

PAS LEADERS HAD COLLECTED SAYINGS OF AN ISLAMIC LEADER IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY AND NOT ONLY REGARDED THESE AS THE +GOSPEL TRUTH+ BUT HAD ALSO PUBLISHED THEM IN BOOK FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION.

SUCH ACTIVITIES CLEARLY SHOWED THAT PAS LEADERS HAD DEVIATED FROM THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, HE ADDED.

PAS LEADERS WERE NOT CONCERNED THAT THEY HAD DISTORTED ISLAMIC TEACHINGS SO LONG THEY COULD GAIN POWER.

HOWEVER THEIR ACTIONS HAD OFFENDED A LARGE NUMBER OF MALAYS, RESULTING IN DISUNITY AMONG THEM AND RETARDATION OF THEIR PROGRESS.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT MUSLIMS, UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT REMAIN IDLE IN THE FACE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

WHEN MALAYS WERE BACKWARD ECONOMICALLY, PAS LEADERS WOULD BLAME THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BRINGING PROGRESS TO THEM AND SAY THAT ISLAM ADVOCATED DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THEM AS +SNAKES WITH FORKED TONGUES+ FOR TWISTING THE TRUTH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS LEADERS SPOKE AS IF THEY WERE THE CHAMPIONS OF ISLAM WHEN THE TRUTH WAS THAT THEY WERE WRECKING THE UNITY OF THE UMMAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER EARLIER CALLED ON SMALL-SCALE BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES TO ACQUIRE MANAGERIAL AND MARKETING EXPERTISE.

HE SAID MERE ABILITY TO PRODUCE A PARTICULAR PRODUCT DID NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS FOR THEY ALSO HAD TO COMPETE WITH BIG COMPANIES WITH ADVANCED MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING SYSTEMS.

HE ALSO URGED BUMIPUTERAS TO OPT FOR THOSE MANUFACTURING AREAS INTO WHICH FEW HAD VENTURED SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO CONTEND WITH MARKETING PROBLEMS.

SMALL SCALE BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSES SHOULD NOT FEEL DISCOURAGED BY THEIR INABILITY TO PENETRATE BIG MARKETS BUT SHOULD INSTEAD TRY TO ACQUIRE MANAGERIAL AND MARKETING GUIDANCE FROM BIG COMPANIES. --

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