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B E322 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PAS  
BM

SHAH ALAM, DEC. 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAHAD  
SAID TODAY PAS HAD PRESSED UMNO TO REPLACE THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION  
WITH AN ISLAMIC LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOYLD CAUSE UMNO  
TO LOSE THE SUPPORT OF THE NON-MUSLIMS.!

PAS WAS NOT INSPIRED BY ISLAMIC FERVOUR WHEN PRESSING FOR THIS.  
HAD UMNO GIVEN IN TO THE DEMAND, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW SE FACING  
ACCUSATIONS OF BEING UNJUST TO THE NON-MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND UMNO'S  
COALITION PARTNERS WOULD PULL OUT FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

+PAS ACCUSED UMNO OF BEING UNISLAMIC ALTHOUGH IT WAS AUARE OF  
UMNO'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ISLAM BECAUSE IT WANTED THE PEOPLE TO  
REJECT UMNO AND ACCEPT PAS INSTEAD,+ HE TOLD A CROWD OF 5,000 WHO  
GATHERED AT THE SULTAN SALAHUDDIN SHAH BUILDING HERE TO WELCOME HIM  
FOR HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SELANGOR.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED PAS AS AN UNPRINCIPLED POLITICAL  
PARTY WHICH PROFESSED TO BE ISLAM'S CHAMPION BUT DID NOT SCRUPLE TO.  
WANGLE FOR NON-MUSLIMS VOTES.

+AN EXAMPLE WAS MY DEF EAT IN THE KOTARSETAR SELATAN  
PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY IN 1969, CAUSED BY PAS WOOING THE  
NON-M'ALAY VOTES BY SPREADING ALLEGATIONS OF ME BEING AN ULTRA-MALAY  
CONCERNED ONLY WITH MALAY AND ISLAMIC INTERESTS.+

HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS PRESENT  
PHILOSOPHY OF ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS CONSONANT WITH ISLAMIC  
REQUIREMENTS.

+THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD OPPRESS NON-MUSLIMS WITH LAWS  
NOT ASKED FOR BY ISLAM. WE MUST BE JUST TO ALL SO THAT THE NATION  
CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS.

\*EVEN PROPHET MOHAMMAD, WHEN IMPOSING A FINE ON A JEW FOR AN  
OFFENCE, REFERRED TO THE JEWISH HOLY BOOK.+

HE SAID UMNO WOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE JUSTICE FOR ALL  
COMMUNITIES WHILE TAKING CARE TO ENFORCE THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM.

--BERNAMA

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