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MAHATHIR-EXTREME  
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85 (P)

KOTA BAHARU, MARCH 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO BE OVERLY ZEALOUS IN COUNTERING THE ONSLAUGHT BY CERTAIN EXTREMIST PAS LEADERS.

+IF WE KEEP ON REACTING TO THEIR EXTREMIST VIEWS, WE MAY BECOME ENTRAPPED AND LOSE THE BACKING OF OUR SUPPORTERS WHO ARE MODERATE BUT LARGE IN NUMBER,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OF KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB HERE LAST NIGHT.

MORE THAN 3,000 UMNO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS AS WELL AS THOSE FROM THE OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES ATTENDED THE DINNER TO MARK THE TWO-DAY VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH TO THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID PAS WANTED TO COME INTO POWER IN THE EAST COAST BECAUSE OF OIL-RICH TERENGGANU.

BECAUSE THEY WERE EYEING THE RICHES THAT COULD BE GAINED, THE PAS LEADERS WERE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO SET UP A STATE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+IF IN THE PAST THEY MADE USE OF RELIGION, THEY HAVE NOW CAST ASIDE THE VALUES OF THE RELIGION, DISTORTED ITS TEACHINGS AND MADE INACCURATE INTERPRETATIONS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS LEADERS, LIKE OTHER HUMAN BEINGS, WERE PRONE TO MISTAKES BUT THEIR ERRONEOUS WAYS HAD BEEN EMULATED BY THEIR INNOCENT FOLLOWERS.

HE ASKED UMNO MEMBERS TO HELP THOSE WHO HAD BEEN LED ASTRAY BY PAS LEADERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WARNED PAS LEADERS THAT THEY WOULD ONE DAY ANSWER FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND ADVISED THEM TO LEARN FROM THE HISTORY OF THEIR PARTY WHICH HAD SEEN OLD LEADERS BEING OUSTED BY NEW ONES.

HE SAID HISTORY WOULD REPEAT ITSELF AS LONG AS PAS WAS LED BY THOSE WHO WERE POWER-GREEDY. -- BERNAMA

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