

0713

U E439 AAE
MAHATHIR-PROPERTY
BM

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(P)

KOTA KINABALU, APRIL 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DENIED HE HAD ANY PROPERTY IN SABAH AND CHALLENGED THOSE MAKING THE ALLEGATION TO COME OUT WITH A STATEMENT IN PUBLIC INSTEAD OF CARRYING OUT A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN.

+I DARE THOSE CLAIMING I AM CLOSE TO DATUK HARRIS (SALLEH) (SABAH'S CHIEF MINISTER) BECAUSE I HAVE A LOT OF PROPERTY IN SABAH TO OPENLY MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING ABOUT 5,000 PEOPLE IN KAMPUNG PIMPING IN MEMBAKUT, 85 KM FROM HERE.

+WE WILL SEE WHETHER THEY DARE MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS IN PUBLIC AND ARE BOLD ENOUGH TO FACE PROSECUTION,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOUCHED ON THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND SABAH GOVERNMENTS SINCE THE BERJAYA PARTY CAME TO POWER IN THE STATE IN 1976.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, AND DATUK HARRIS AND HIS WIFE, DATIN RUPIAH, WERE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION.

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1647MST 04 04 85

U E447 AAE
MAHATHIR-PROPERTY 2 KOTA KINABALU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND SABAH GOVERNMENTS WERE CLOSE, UNLIKE WHEN THE STATE WAS UNDER THE USNO ADMINISTRATION.

+THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE BERJAYA GOVERNMENT, AND THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HAS ENABLED BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MATTERS.+

DURING USNO'S TIME, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WAS +COLD+ AND LEADERS OF THE STATE THEN WERE ABROAD MOST OF THE TIME, HE SAID, NAMING ENGLAND AND LEBANON AS THEIR FAVOURITE VACATION DESTINATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID USNO LEADERS THEN GAVE PRIORITY TO SELF-INTERESTS OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT JUST BEFORE BERJAYA TOOK OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY AND HAD TO SELL ITS AIRCRAFT AND HOUSES. -- MORE
1712MBT 04 04 85

0746

B E453 AAE
MAHATHIR-PROPERTY 3 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID NO ONE COULD DENY THAT BERJAYA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SABAH INTO WHAT IT WAS NOW, THE RICHEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED TO THE GATHERING WHY THE STATE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED LABUAN TO BE TURNED INTO A FEDERAL TERRITORY.

HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY BENEFIT FROM THE HANDING OVER OF LABUAN BUT IT UNDERTOOK TO DEVELOP THE ISLAND TO HELP EASE THE BURDEN ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD NOW CHANNEL FUNDS THAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE GONE TO LABUAN TO OTHER AREAS IN THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS OF BERJAYA BEING UNDEMOCRATIC, SAYING THE CURRENT STATE ELECTION WAS SUFFICIENT PROOF THAT IT WAS DEMOCRATIC BECAUSE 172 PERSONS HAD BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO STAND AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND AS INDEPENDENTS AGAINST 48 BERJAYA CANDIDATES.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE USNO ADMINISTRATION, THERE HAD BEEN CASES OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES NOT REACHING NOMINATION CENTRES TO HAND IN THEIR PAPERS. -- MORE
1751MBT 04 04 85

B E454 AAE
MAHATHIR-PROPERTY 4 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, SAID THE BN WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BERJAYA WHETHER THE PARTY WON OR LOST IN THE ELECTION.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH ANY OTHER PARTY BECAUSE +WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE HONESTY AND RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF BERJAYA.+

WHEN USNO WAS IN THE BN, THE PARTY CARRIED OUT VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE BY ANY COMPONENT OF THE BN, HE SAID.
+USNO HAD STABBED US IN THE BACK,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
1757MBT 04 04 85