

B E665 AAE  
MAHATHIR-CORRUPTION 85  
BM

(P)

KUALA BERANG, MAY 19 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REITERATED TODAY HIS CALL TO UMNO MEMBERS TO REJECT LEADERS WHO RESORT TO BUYING OF VOTES TO WIN POSITIONS IN THE PARTY.

HE URGED ALL PARTY MEMBERS TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL SO THAT FIRM ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST LEADERS WHO WON PARTY CONTESTS THROUGH VOTE-BUYING.

OPENING THE HULU TERENGGANU UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' CONFERENCE HERE, HE STRESSED THAT IF PEOPLE WHO ADVANCED THROUGH THIS CORRUPT PRACTICE GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY, THEY WOULD MAKE THE GOVERNMENT DIRTY, THE COUNTRY WEAK AND UMNO FALL.

+I AM CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE LEADERSHIP OR THE MINISTERS CONSISTING OF PEOPLE WHO WENT UP THROUGH CORRUPTION BUT WANT THE COUNTRY TO HAVE A CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY ADMINISTRATION,+ HE ADDED.

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1449MST 19 05 85

D595

B E675 AAE  
MAHATHIR-CORRUPTION 2 KUALA BERANG

HE SAID THAT IF THE PRACTICE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, A TIME WOULD COME WHEN UMNO ITSELF COULD BE BOUGHT.

HE SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WERE PREPARED TO SPEND AS MUCH AS \$600,000 WHILE THEIR OPPONENTS SPENT JUST AS MUCH SOLELY TO WIN THE POST OF UMNO DIVISION HEAD.

THERE WERE ALSO PEOPLE WHO WERE PREPARED TO OFFER FREE TRIPS TO MEDAN OR TOKYO OR TO PAY EXPENSES FOR PERFORMANCE OF THE HAJ TO DELEGATES WHO WOULD VOTE FOR THEM.

+SUCH ACTS MUST BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY AND THE ONLY ONES WITH THE POWER TO DO SO ARE THE MEMBERS OR DELEGATES WHO KNOW HOW TO EXERCISE THEIR POWERS AND ARE WILLING TO PUT PARTY INTERESTS ABOVE SELF-INTERESTS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1553MST 19 05 85

D610

B E678 AAE  
MAHATHIR-CORRUPTION 3 KUALA BERANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP WAS AWARE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES AND WAS DETERMINED TO PUT A STOP TO THEM.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, WITHOUT THE MAJORITY SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS, ANY ACTION TO BE TAKEN WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE BUT COULD INSTEAD CAUSE A SPLIT AMONG THEM.

HE SAID SUPPORTERS OF THOSE WHO GOT ELECTED THROUGH VOTE-BUYING WERE SURE TO BE DISPLEASED WITH THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP IF THEIR MAN DID NOT RECEIVE ITS SUPPORT.

HE ALSO CRITICISED THE PRACTICE OF SOME LEADERS WHO HAD THEIR +SHADOW CABINET+ ALL LINED UP BEFORE A BRANCH OR DIVISIONAL ELECTION, SAYING THIS COULD CAUSE DISUNITY.

+AS RESPONSIBLE PARTY MEMBERS WE CANNOT BE FANATIC IN OUR SUPPORT OF A PARTICULAR LEADER BUT MUST SUPPORT ANY PERSON ELECTED TO THE POST IN THE PARTY EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT PERSONALLY WANT THAT PERSON IN,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1615MST 19 05 85

D622

B E686 AAE

MAHATHIR-CORRUPTION 4 KUALA BERANG

HE SAID UMNO WOULD CONTINUE TO BE STRONG IF ITS MEMBERS REMAINED UNITED AND GAVE THEIR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT TO THE ELECTED LEADERS.

+JUST LIKE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO A POLITICAL PARTY IN THE COUNTRY NOW, NO MATTER HOW INTELLIGENT OR GOOD THE LEADER, THE PARTY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FUNCTION IF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE NOT UNITED.+

THE UMNO PRESIDENT WENT ON TO WARN PARTY MEMBERS AGAINST USING THE COURT AS A FORUM TO VOICE THEIR DISSATISFACTION OVER INTERNAL PARTY MATTERS.

THE COURTS, HE SAID, COULD ONLY GIVE SOLUTIONS ON LEGAL ASPECTS AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY BRING CALM TO THE SITUATION OR RESTORE UNITY AMONG THE MEMBERS.

+ALTHOUGH A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE COURT, A CERTAIN SECTION WHICH DISLIKES ANOTHER SECTION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THAT DECISION AND HATRED WOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL IN ITS RANKS.+ -- MORE

1639MST 19 05 85

D623

B E687 AAE

MAHATHIR-CORRUPTION 5 KUALA BERANG

STRESSING ON THIS POINT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO REFER ANY DISSATISFACTION TO THE DIVISION, STATE UMNO LIAISON BODY OR THE SUPREME COUNCIL.

+THE BEST WAY TO AVOID DISUNITY IS TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE HIGHER-UPS IN THE PARTY SO THAT INVESTIGATIONS CAN BE CARRIED OUT, CONSULTATIONS HELD AND SOLUTIONS ATTAINED.+

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, SEVERAL DEPUTY MINISTERS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WAS GREETED ON ARRIVAL BY A PROCESSION OF ABOUT 200 UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS ON MOTORCYCLES. -- BERNAMA

1640MST 19 05 85