

MAHATHIR
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JOHOR BAHRU, JUNE 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED, REITERATED TODAY THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM BETWEEN HIM AND DATUK MUSA HITAM.

HE SAID THAT RUMOURS HAD BEEN SPREAD BY CERTAIN PEOPLE THAT THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS BETWEEN HIM AND HIS DEPUTY BECAUSE DATUK MUSA WAS NOT WITH HIM ON HIS VISIT HERE. HE IS ON A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO JOHOR, HIS FIRST SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.

+THIS SHOULD NOT BE MISCONTRUED BY ANYONE AS A PROBLEM OR THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN US BECAUSE NOTHING, IN FACT, HAS HAPPENED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DATUK MUSA WAS AT PRESENT OVERSEAS BECAUSE HE HAD TO ATTEND TO CERTAIN THINGS AND +THIS SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED IN ANY WAY.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ADDRESSING ABOUT 5,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING BARISAN NASIONAL SUPPORTERS, WHO WERE AT THE SULTAN ISMAIL AIRPORT IN SENAI, ABOUT 32 KM FROM HERE, TO WELCOME HIM. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 2 JOHOR BAHRU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY SUCH RUMOURS WERE BELIEVED NOT ONLY BY CERTAIN PEOPLE BUT ALSO AT TIMES BY UMNO MEMBERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID OTHER RUMOURS WERE ALSO BEING SPREAD IN THE COUNTRY, SOME OF WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE ECONOMIC RECESSION FACED BY THE COUNTRY HAD WORSENERED TO THE EXTENT THAT BUSINESS HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL.

+THERE ARE ALSO RUMOURS OF CORRUPTION INVOLVING CERTAIN PEOPLE AND THESE ARE BEING SPREAD WITHOUT ANY PROOF AND THERE ARE OTHER KINDS OF TALK WHICH WILL ONLY HAVE ADVERSE RESULTS ON US,+ HE SAID.

HE ADVISED THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY UMNO MEMBERS, NOT TO FALL PREY TO SUCH RUMOURS AND BECOME THE TOOLS OF OTHERS BY JOINING THEM IN SPREADING RUMOURS.

HE WARNED THAT THE NATION WOULD SUFFER AND BE RUINED BECAUSE OF SUCH RUMOURS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR 3 JOHOR BAHRU

+FOR INSTANCE, RECENTLY THERE WERE RUMOURS THAT A BANK IN THIS COUNTRY DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO PAY ITS DEPOSITORS AND THIS LED THEM TO PANIC.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE RUMOURS WERE UNFOUNDED BUT THE EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED COULD MAKE OTHER PEOPLE LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

HE WARNED THAT EVENTUALLY +WE ARE THE ONES WHO WILL WOULD FEEL THE EFFECTS OF SUCH RUMOURS.+

HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR SUCH RUMOURS.

+WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RULE THIS COUNTRY VERY WELL AND HAVE BROUGHT BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE= THOUGH THE NATION IS FACED WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS, THEY ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR 4 JOHOR BAHARU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND SHOULD NOT MAKE WRONG INTERPRETATIONS THAT COULD BRING RUIN TO THEM.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN FRANK IN EXPOSING WEAKNESSES BECAUSE +THIS IS AN OPEN COUNTRY WITH AN OPEN GOVERNMENT+.

+THE TRUTH WILL BE EXPOSED AND THAT WHICH IS NOT WILL NOT ATTRACT ATTENTION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNDER THE COUNTRY'S SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION, THERE WERE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES THROUGH WHICH PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED.

+IF WE IGNORE SUCH PROCEDURES AND RESORT TO HAPHAZARD METHODS OF SOLVING THEM THEN WE WILL BE DESTROYING OURSELVES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO REMINDED THOSE INVOLVED IN THE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS, PARTICULARLY THE MASS MEDIA, TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND NOT TO PUT OUT ANYTHING THAT WOULD NOT BENEFIT THE NATION. -- BERNAMA

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