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U E260 DEE
MAHATHIR-UMNO (CORRECTED REPETITION)
BM 85

(P)

KUALA PILAH, JULY 7 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO REJECT WHAT HE TERMED AS POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS WHO HAVE EMERGED IN INCREASING NUMBERS WITHIN THE PARTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT THESE OPPORTUNISTS, WHO FOUGHT FOR POSTS SOLELY FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS, WOULD ONLY WEAKEN UMNO THROUGH THEIR UNHEALTHY CAMPAIGNS USING MONEY.

+WE DO NOT WANT POSTS CREATED IN UMNO SOLELY TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO SEEK WEALTH,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE KUALA PILAH UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND NEGERI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR AND STATE UMNO CHIEF DATUK MOHAMAD ISA ABDUL SAMAD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT UMNO SUCCEEDED IN HELPING THE COUNTRY OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE AND HAD REMAINED AS THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE PARTY MEMBERS WERE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE RELIGION, RACE AND NATION. -- MORE
1805MST 07 07 85

MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA PILAH (CORRECTED REPETITION)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, THOSE WITH CAPABILITY HAD TO BE COAXED TO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADING THE PARTY.

+NOW, THERE IS A SCRAMBLE FOR TOP POSTS IN THE PARTY BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS ENJOYED BY THE HOLDERS OF SUCH POSTS. EVEN THE LEADER OF A BRANCH GETS A LOT OF BENEFITS, LIKE GETTING AT LEAST A TAXI LICENCE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE THE OBJECTIVES OF HOLDING POSTS IN THE PARTY WERE NO MORE BASED ON REALISATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE, THERE WERE UNHEALTHY PRACTICES IN THE RACE FOR SUCH POSTS WITH UNITY BEING SACRIFICED IN THE PROCESS.

+THAT IS WHY THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY, DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION TO CHECK SUCH UNHEALTHY PRACTICES IN THE SELECTION OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT WHILE THE MEMBERSHIP OF UMNO HAD INCREASED, THERE WERE FEWER MEMBERS WITH KNOWLEDGE ON THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE, RESULTING IN ITS MACHINERY BEING WEAKENED. -- MORE
1808MST 07 07 85

MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA PILAH (CORRECTED REPETITION)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT UMNO WOULD LOSE ITS STRENGTH AND ITS POSITION AS THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT IF CURRENT UNHEALTHY PRACTICES IN THE PARTY WERE NOT CHECKED.

HE HAD ANNOUNCED AFTER YESTERDAY'S UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING THAT UMNO MEMBERS MUST TRY TO RESOLVE ALL INTERNAL DISPUTES WITHIN THE PARTY AND ONLY WHEN ALL PARTY AVENUES HAD BEEN TRIED, COULD THEY BRING THEIR DISPUTES TO COURT.

ELABORATING ON THIS, HE SAID THAT THE COURT WAS NOT AN AVENUE FOR ANY PARTY CANDIDATE TO SEEK VICTORY +BECAUSE IN POLITICS, VICTORY IS BASED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES AND NOT ON A COURT DECISION.+

+A CANDIDATE WHO LOSES IN AN ELECTION NEED NOT SEEK VICTORY IN THE COURT BY PROVING THAT THE ELECTION WAS NULL AND VOID BECAUSE IF HE LEADS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES, HE WILL NOT SUCCEED EVENTUALLY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE STRENGTH OF A PARTICULAR GROUP OR PARTY WAS BASED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES FOR ITS LEADERSHIP. -- MORE

1810MST 07 07 85

U E263 DEE

MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA PILAH (CORRECTED REPETITION)

HE SAID THAT UNHEALTHY PRACTICES IN THE RACE FOR POSTS WITHIN UMNO ALSO LED TO THE EMERGENCE OF FACTIONS, WITH THE LOSER NOT GIVING SUPPORT TO THE VICTORIOUS, THUS RESULTING IN DISUNITY.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THOSE IN UMNO WHO TRIED TO USE THE PARTY TO SEEK WEALTH WOULD NOT SUCCEED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD REALISE THAT EVENTUALLY THE PARTY WOULD HAVE AN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IF THEY ELECTED LEADERS WITH CAPABILITY AND NOT THOSE WHO USED THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HE SAID, IT WAS THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD ASSESS THE QUALITIES OF THEIR LEADERS, NOT THE LEADERS THEMSELVES.

-- BERNAMA