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B E138 DEE
MAHATHIR-SPIRIT
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(P)

KUALA KRAI, JULY 12 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED PARTY MEMBERS TO ENSURE THAT THE SPIRIT OF THEIR STRUGGLE WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PARTY'S STRENGTH DOES NOT FIZZLE OUT.

HE SAID THAT UMNO, AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY, WAS ALSO SUBJECTED TO INFLUENCES THAT COULD WEAKEN ITS SPIRIT.

HOWEVER, THE PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE STRONG IF EVERY MEMBER RENEWED HIS SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE BASED OF THE REALISATION OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE RELIGION AND THE NATION, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE KUALA KRAI UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' CONFERENCE AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN PAHI, ABOUT 5 KM FROM HERE. ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHAT WAS VITAL FOR THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF UMNO WAS UNITY AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORT FOR THE LEADERS OF THE PARTY. -- MORE

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THE PARTY COULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IF THE MEMBERS REALISED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UMNO STRUGGLE WAS TO PRESERVE THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS AND THE INTERESTS OF ISLAM.

UMNO, TOGETHER WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, HAD FREED THE NATION FROM COLONIAL RULE AND HAD BROUGHT INDEPENDENCE TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE STRONG SPIRIT AMONG ITS MEMBERS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WERE FORMED TO DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE COLONIALISTS BUT MANY OF THEM HAD VANISHED.

UMNO WAS ONE OF THE PARTIES WHICH CONTINUED TO BE IN POWER LONG AFTER THE COUNTRY GAINED INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE OF THE SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE WHICH STILL PREVAILED AMONG ITS MEMBERS, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT WERE CERTAIN UMNO MEMBERS WHO WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH LOOKING FOR FAULTS OF OTHERS AND NOT CONCENTRATING ON WAYS OF IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE COMMUNITY. -- MORE

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D624

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MAHATHIR-SPIRIT 3 KUALA KRAI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED PARTY MEMBERS NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY +MONEY POLITICS+ TO ENSURE THAT THE STRENGTH AND UNITY OF THE PARTY WAS MAINTAINED.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB. -- BERNAMA

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