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KOTA BAHARU, JULY 12 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED PARTY LEADERS THAT SEEKING DECISIONS BY THIRD PARTIES LIKE THE COURTS TO SOLVE INTERNAL PROBLEMS, EVEN THOUGH CORRECT FROM THE LEGAL VIEWPOINT, WOULD NOT HAVE ANY MEANING WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN POLITICS, THE ROLE OF A LEADER WAS NOT TO SERVE HIS OWN INTERESTS BUT TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND NATION.

ADDRESSING ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, WHO TURNED UP TO GREET HIM ON ARRIVAL AT THE SULTAN ISMAIL AIRPORT IN PENGKALAN CHEPA NEAR HERE, HE SAID A POLITICAL PARTY WOULD NOT EXIST IF IT DID NOT HAVE SUPPORTERS.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR THE LEADERS TO ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS OF THEIR ORGANISATION, ADDING THAT WITHOUT REGULATIONS THE ORGANISATION WOULD HAVE COME INTO EXISTENCE.

HE SAID THAT THE CREATION OF VARIOUS POSTS IN THE PARTY WAS TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY AND NOT THAT OF THE LEADERS. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POST HELD BY HIM WAS THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE AND THE FACILITIES ACCORDED HIM WERE NOT TO SERVE HIS PERSONAL INTERESTS BUT WERE FOR HIM TO CARRY OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATION.

HE SAID THE LEADER REPRESENTED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE AND AS SUCH THEY SHOULD HEED HIS WORDS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, REMINDED PARTY MEMBERS THAT WHILE THEY WERE FREE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS THEY MUST ALSO ACCEPT THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY TO ENSURE THAT THE MAJORITY VIEW WAS RESPECTED BY OTHERS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH ONE VOICE THE COUNTRY WOULD BECOME STRONG AND PROGRESSIVE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTED BY OTHER NATIONS.

THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF IT HAD TOO MANY VOICES CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR IT AND THUS DISRUPTING ITS UNITY AND SECURITY, HE SAID.

+WE HAVE SEEN MANY COUNTRIES WHICH HAD GAINED INDEPENDENCE BUT ARE UNABLE TO DEVELOP AND THIS SHOULD SERVE AS A LESSON FOR ALL OF US,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT WISH TO BE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY OTHER NATIONS.

THE PEOPLE MUST ADHERE TO THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND BE PREPARED TO PLACE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS ABOVE THEIR OWN SO THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE HUMILIATED BY OTHERS, HE SAID.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE PREPARED TO SHOULDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR RELIGION AND THE NATION BY FORGING A STRONGER BOND OF UNITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HADMAH WERE RECEIVED ON ARRIVAL BY MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB AND DATIN NIK AZIZAH AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOOK THE SALUTE AND REVIEWED A PARADE MOUNTED BY KELANTAN UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA MEMBERS.

-- BERNAMA

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