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MAHATHIR-POLLS
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(P)

MENTAKAB, JULY 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD UMNO MEMBERS TODAY TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE IDEA THAT THE PARTY WILL NEVER LOSE A GENERAL ELECTION.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF THEY FELT THAT THE PARTY WOULD NOT LOSE BECAUSE IT HAD RULED THE COUNTRY FOR SO LONG THEN THEIR ARROGANCE WOULD BRING DEFEAT UPON THE PARTY.

HE SAID IT WAS EXACTLY SUCH AN ATTITUDE THAT LED TO THE DEFEAT OF A CERTAIN BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY IN A STATE ELECTION RECENTLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ANY POLITICAL PARTY, UMNO FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER HAVING HELD THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT FOR SO LONG, WOULD TEND TO FEEL THAT IT COULD NEVER LOSE AN ELECTION.

+BUT, THE DEFEAT OF THE BN COMPONENT PARTY HAS PROVEN SUCH AN ATTITUDE TO BE WRONG,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MENTAKAB UMNO DIVISIONAL DELEGATES' MEETING HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO LEADERS MUST GIVE ALL THEIR ATTENTION TO ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BRING THEM CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES, AND NOT WHEN ELECTIONS APPROACHED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-POLLS 2 MENTAKAB

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY FOR UMNO TO ENSURE ITS FUTURE THAN TO HOLD FIRM TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE PARTY THAT HAD BEEN PRACTISED SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1946.

AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PARTY CONTINUED TO PRODUCE MATURE AND STRONG LEADERS, EVERY MEMBER MUST SHUN THOSE WHO USED MONEY TO SECURE PARTY POSTS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO, AS THE BACKBONE OF THE BN, HAD BROUGHT PROGRESS AND SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE.

THIS WAS THE RESULT OF THE PARTY'S MODERATE ATTITUDE WHICH IT ADOPTED IN EVERY ACTION IT PURSUED, HE ADDED.

HE SAID UMNO'S EVERY ACTION WAS TAKEN ONLY AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHT TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-POLLS 3 MENTAKAB

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DEMOCRACY IN UMNO HELD THE KEY TO THE CONTINUED WELLBEING OF THE PARTY AND ADDED THAT WAS WHY THE WAY UMNO OPERATED NEEDED TO BE DONE WITH THE UTMOST CARE.

ON +UNHEALTHY+ PRACTICES RELATED TO THE ELECTION OF PARTY LEADERS, HE WARNED THAT IF UMNO MEMBERS ALLOWED BRIBERY IN THE PARTY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE RIDDLED WITH CORRUPTION.

+NEEDLESS TO SAY, A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DO ANYTHING FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT BUT WILL DESTROY IT,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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