

BUKIT MERTAJAM, AUG 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASKED BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE +SERVANTS+ OF THEIR ORGANISATIONS AND TO REFRAIN FROM INDULGING IN SELF-IMPORTANCE.

HE SAID SUCH AN ATTITUDE WAS NECESSARY AS THE PARTIES WERE THE SERVANTS OF THE NATION AND THROUGH THEM WOULD NATIONAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT BE ACHIEVED.

+WE MUST SUBMIT OURSELVES TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE NATION. THIS STRUGGLE WILL DETERMINE THE PROGRESS OR OTHERWISE OF OUR COUNTRY.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ADDRESSING ABOUT 12,000 BN YOUTH AND WANITA MEMBERS FROM THE PERMATANG PAUH DIVISION. THE MEETING, HELD AT SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN GUAR PERAHU NEAR HERE, WAS ORGANISED BY THE PERMATANG PAUH UMNO YOUTH.

HE REMINDED THE LEADERS TO KEEP IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY, A PROCESS HE DESCRIBED AS VITAL FOR THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

OTHERWISE, HE SAID, THEY WOULD BE FACED WITH NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BN 2 BUKIT MERTAJAM

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CRITICISED CERTAIN PARTY LEADERS WHO HE SAID WERE SO CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL MATTERS THAT THEY HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HAD ELECTED THEM, EXCEPT WHEN ELECTIONS APPROACHED.

ON THE BN, HE SAID THE COALITION WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW IN STRENGTH DESPITE +SOME PROBLEMS+ AMONG ITS COMPONENT MEMBERS.

HE SAID EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND HOPED THOSE INVOLVED WOULD ACCEPT THE DECISIONS REACHED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

+LET THERE NOT BE ANY LEADERS, WHETHER THEY ARE FROM UMNO, THE MCA, MIC, GERAKAN OR SUPP, WHO GIVE IMPORTANCE ONLY TO THEIR OWN POSITION,+ HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT EVERY BN COMPONENT PARTY LEADER MUST READILY ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY, AS SUCH A PROCESS FORMED THE BASIS OF THE PARTIES' ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BN 3 BUKIT MERTAJAM

HE SAID A LEADER WAS ONE WHO HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY AND WHEN A LEADER WAS REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE HE SHOULD WITHDRAW WILLINGLY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE REJECTION OF A LEADER SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN INSULT AS THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN A LEADER HAD TO STEP DOWN.

HE SAID FORMER PRIME MINISTERS TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN AND TUN HUSSEIN ONN HAD STEPPED DOWN WHEN THE TIME CAME.

+I, TOO, WILL DO SO WHEN THE TIME COMES, WHEN THERE ARE CLEAR SIGNS THAT I SHOULD DO SO.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY WHICH HE SAID WAS USING MUSLIM CONVERTS AS POLITICAL TOOLS.

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MAHATHIR-BN 4 BUKIT MERTAJAM

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THESE CONVERTS WERE ABLE TO SPEAK LANGUAGES THAT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY MOST NON-MALAYS, THEY WERE USED TO INCITE FEELINGS OF HATRED AMONG THE NON-MALAYS TOWARD UMNO AND THE BN GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEEPING AN EYE ON THESE PEOPLE TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SPEECHES DID NOT LEAD TO OUTBREAK OF TROUBLE AND WARNED THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM IF THEY BROKE THE LAW.

HE CAUTIONED THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE CHINESE, TO BE WARY OF THESE CONVERTS AS HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN INDOCTRINATED WITH RACIST BELIEFS.

URGING THE PEOPLE TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND TO FORGE GREATER COOPERATION, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD EXPERIENCE EVEN GREATER PEACE AND PROGRESS.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ESCORTED IN A MOTORCADE BY 500 BN YOUTH MEMBERS ASTRIDE MOTORCYCLES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BN 5 BUKIT MERTAJAM

HE AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WERE ACCOMPANIED BY UMNO YOUTH CHIEF ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM, WHO IS ALSO PERMATANG PAUH UMNO DIVISIONAL LEADER, AND EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI.

ALSO PRESENT WERE CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU, DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR GOH CHENG TEIK, STATE SECRETARY DATUK ZAINOL MAHMOOD AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS. -- BERNAMA
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