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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 27 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO'S DESIRE TO WORK HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNITY MUST NEVER BECOME THE PERSONAL POLITICAL TOOL OF ANYONE, UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY.

HE SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN THE GOVERNMENT MUST COMPRISE SINCERE AND HONEST PEOPLE AND NOT THOSE WHO GAVE PRIORITY TO THEIR OWN PERSONAL INTEREST.

SAYING THAT THE CHINESE WERE THE SECOND LARGEST GROUP IN THE COUNTRY AFTER THE MALAYS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT UMNO WISHED TO SEE THE CHINESE CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT.

ADDRESSING THE 36TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, HE REITERATED THAT UMNO HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ITS BARISAN NASIONAL PARTNERS.

+BUT UMNO, BEING A MEMBER OF THE BN, WILL NOT STAND BY AND ALLOW THE COALITION'S INTEGRITY BE COMPROMISED OVER THE INTERESTS OF ONE COMPONENT PARTY OR OF CERTAIN PEOPLE. NOR WILL UMNO ALLOW ITSELF TO BE SMEARED BY THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR AUTHORITY,+ HE SAID TO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FROM THE DELEGATES. -- MORE
1440MST 27 09 85

UMNO-BN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID LEADERS MUST ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY AND SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DIGGING UP ISSUES TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. NEITHER SHOULD THEY TOY AROUND WITH REGULATIONS OR PROCEDURES TO KEEP THEIR POSITIONS SECURE.

HE SAID UMNO ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA IS A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY AND AS SUCH WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE OTHER RACES AS LONG AS THEIR STRUGGLE DID NOT CONFLICT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION OR OF UMNO'S.

HE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES SHIED AWAY FROM INTERFERING IN DOMESTIC MATTERS OF ONE ANOTHER, THE BN'S INTEREST MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THAT OF ANY ONE PARTY.

IN THE EVENT OF ONE COMPONENT PARTY THREATENING TO DESTROY NOT ONLY ITSELF BUT THE BN AS WELL, THE BN COULD NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, REMAIN SILENT, HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, THE BN WOULD STILL BE VERY CAUTIOUS IN TAKING ANY FORM OF ACTION AND WOULD GIVE ENOUGH TIME FOR THE TROUBLED PARTY TO FIND A SOLUTION. -- MORE
1504MST 27 09 85

UMNO-BN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE BN'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE VARIOUS PROBLEMS BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION HAD BEEN DISTORTED BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

THESE GROUPS HAD ACCUSED UMNO OF HAVING A HAND IN CHOOSING THE LEADERS OF A CERTAIN COMPONENT PARTY SO AS TO FAN RACIAL SENTIMENTS AND PROMOTE THE POPULARITY OF CERTAIN PERSONALITIES.

+STRANGELY ENOUGH, THESE GROUPS ARE THE VERY SAME ONES WHO NOT SO LONG AGO ASKED FOR HELP TO HAVE CERTAIN PEOPLE FROM THEIR PARTY REMOVED FROM THEIR POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OR TO HAVE THEM REINSTATED,+ HE SAID.

ON MONEY POLITICS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CAPABILITY OF UMNO MEMBERS TO COUNTER THIS TREND AND TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY WOULD BE A TEST OF THE MALAYS' ABILITY TO HANDLE A LARGER ADMINISTRATION.

HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT HISTORY HAD PROVEN THAT ONLY A PEOPLE WHO COULD CAPABLY MANAGE A GROWING POPULATION COULD BUILD A GREAT AND STRONG NATION. -- MORE
1550MST 27 09 85

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UMNO-BN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

A NATION THAT COULD NOT DO THIS WOULD BECOME DIVIDED INTO MINOR STATES, AS HAD OCCURRED IN THE ANCIENT MALAY WORLD IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE SAID.

HE WARNED THAT JUST AS THE TUSSELE FOR POWER IN THE MALAY KINGDOMS OF OLD HAD LED TO THE COLONISATION OF THE MALAYS FOR MORE THAN 400 YEARS, THE JOSTLING FOR POSITIONS IN UMNO AND THE DISUNITY AMONG ITS MEMBERS AS A RESULT OF MONEY POLITICS COULD BRING ABOUT SIMILAR CONSEQUENCES.

+THE FATE OF THE MALAYS AND ISLAM WILL SURELY BE A DIRE ONE IF UMNO IS DESTROYED. UMNO MAY WITHSTAND THE ATTACKS OF ITS ENEMIES FROM THE OUTSIDE BUT IT WILL BE HARD PUT TO CONTINUE EXISTING IF THE MEMBERS ARE IN DISARRAY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MONEY POLITICS HAD BECOME THE GAME OF NOT ONLY SOME NEW MEMBERS WHO HAD COME INTO AFFLUENCE BUT ALSO SOME VETERAN MEMBERS WHO, FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR POSITION, HAD CAST ASIDE THEIR PRINCIPLES.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT UMNO WAS FORCED TO AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE REMEDIES AGAINST ABUSES COMMITTED BY ITS MEMBERS AND LEADERS, HE SAID. -- MORE
1554MST 27 09 85

UMNO-BN 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THESE AMENDMENTS, HE SAID, WOULD PROVIDE MORE POWER TO THE PARTY'S COORDINATING BODIES IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS WITHOUT BEING SHACKLED BY COURT INJUNCTIONS, A DEVELOPMENT HE SAID WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON AMONG SOME PARTY MEMBERS WHO HAD ONLY THEIR OWN INTEREST IN MIND.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AMENDMENTS WAS TO CONTROL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD BECOME +THORNS IN THE FLESH,+ BUT WARNED THAT IF THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS BEHAVED BADLY AND DISREGARDED REGULATIONS, THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT IN PRESERVING THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THE AMENDMENTS, IF APPROVED AT SUNDAY'S SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE APPLIED TOO FREQUENTLY AS HE BELIEVED THE MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND ACT AS A DIGNIFIED AND RESPECTED RACE. -- BERNAMA
1619MST 27 09 85