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MAHATHIR-MCA R'W'R'
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT HE WILL NOT LIKE TO SEE ANOTHER CRISIS EMERGE WITHIN THE MCA CONSIDERING ITS ROLE AS A SENIOR PARTNER IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE CRISIS WHICH ENGULFED THE PARTY RECENTLY, WHICH WAS LATER SETTLED, HAD NOT ONLY HAMPERED THE MCA AND AFFECTED THE CHINESE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT UMNO AS A CLOSE ALLY OF THE MCA DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE PARTY SPLIT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WAS NOT EFFECTIVE AS A POLITICAL PARTY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH MCA'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY MCA WHICH COULD REPRESENT THE CHINESE COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE THEIR VOICE WAS CHANNELLED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE PARTY.

THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, HE ADDED, HAD NO VOICE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER THEIR INTERESTS. --
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MAHATHIR-MCA 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'W'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WERE FORTUNATE BECAUSE THEY HAD LEADERS WHO WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED TO LEAD THE PEOPLE SHOULD MOVE TOWARDS THE RIGHT COURSE AND DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES EFFECTIVELY.

EARLIER, MCA PRESIDENT DATUK DR NEO YEE PAN SAID THAT THE SETTING UP OF THE MCA-GERAKAN JOINT COUNCIL WOULD ENABLE GREATER COOPERATION AMONG LEADERS AT THE LOWER LEVELS.

THROUGH THE COUNCIL, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MCA AND GERAKAN COULD BE ERASED AND BARISAN NASIONAL UNITY ENHANCED PARTICULARLY IN FACING CHALLENGES FROM THE OPPOSITION, HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM, DATIN MARIA, MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS. -- BERNAMA

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