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MAHATHIR-MCA R R R  
FROM MUSA SCULLY 85

(P) Trip overseas

HANGZHOU, NOV 25, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TONIGHT THAT THE MCA SHOULD FIRST PROJECT ITSELF AS A PARTY THAT IS VERY STRONG AND NOT THAT IS DIVIDED.

SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS NOW ON A NINE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA SAID THE MCA, FOLLOWING THE PARTY ELECTIONS, +SHOULD NOW PUT ITSELF IN A POSITION OF ITS ORIGINAL STRENGTH AND NOT HALF ITS STRENGTH.+

IN CONGRATULATING ENCIK TAN KOON SWAN ON HIS ELECTION AS THE FIFTH MCA PRESIDENT, HE SAID IT WAS A CLEAR VICTORY.

ENCIK TAN BEAT DATUK DR NEO YEE PAN BY A CONVINCING 1,906-VOTE MAJORITY FOR THE PRESIDENCY YESTERDAY. HIS ENTIRE LINE-UP WAS ELECTED TO THE VARIOUS POSTS IN THE PARTY AT THE MCA POLLS OVER THE WEEKEND.

REGARDING MCA MINISTERS IN THE CABINET WHO LOST THEIR POSITIONS IN THE PARTY, HE SAID THEIR POSITIONS WERE NOT TIED UP TO PARTY MATTERS.

+THEY ARE BASED ON OTHER MATTERS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE REPORTED OFFER BY ENCIK TAN KOON SWAN TO DATUK DR NEO AND DATUK MAK HON KAM TO SERVE ON THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HE SAID: +IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR THE LOSING SIDE TO ADAPT THEMSELVES. AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE FEELING DISAPPOINTED.+

+IN POLITICS, THERE IS THE WINNER WHO DOES NOT TAKE ALL AND THERE IS THE LOSER WHO DOES NOT LOSE ALL.+

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE LOSING SIDE HAS A RIGHT TO PUT ACROSS ITS VOICE AS IT ALSO HAS SUPPORTERS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

ON THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY AND IF IT WOULD REMAIN UNITED UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP, HE SAID IT DEPENDED WHETHER THE LEADERS COULD PLAY A CONCILIATORY OR ADVERSARY ROLE. -- BERNAMA  
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