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KOTA BAHARU, JUNE 29/ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TOLD UMNO MEMBERS TODAY TO GET CLOSE TO ~~ORDINARY PAS MEMBERS~~ TO
INFORM THEM OF THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND PAS LEADERS' WHO ARE CARRYING
OUT ACTIVITIES IN THE NAME OF ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS WOULD BE FULFILLING
THEIR DUTY TO SOCIETY BY PROVIDING THE ORDINARY PAS MEMBERS WITH
SUCH INFORMATION.

UMNO WAS SET UP IN THE INTEREST OF THE RELIGION, RACE AND
COUNTRY UNLIKE PAS WHICH WAS FORMED FOR ITS LEADERS' INTERESTS, HE
SAID WHEN OPENING THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE KOK LANAS UMNO
DIVISION IN KETEREH NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS WAS PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING,
INCLUDING INTERPRETING THE HADIS AND QURAN ACCORDING TO THEIR
POLITICAL INTERESTS AND ACCUSING OTHER MUSLIMS OF BEING +KAFIR+
(INFIDELS) FOR THE SAKE OF OBTAINING VOTES IN ELECTIONS. -- MORE
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HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXCLUDE PAS SUPPORTERS FROM
ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE UMNO'S
STRUGGLE WAS FOR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND NOT THAT OF ONLY CERTAIN
LEADERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, ADDED THAT ISLAM WAS
NOT THE BASIS OF PAS' STRUGGLE.

RATHER, PAS' STRUGGLE WAS MOTIVATED BY A FEELING OF ENVY OF UMNO
WHICH HAD SUCCEEDED IN RULING THE COUNTRY FOR MANY YEARS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IF RELIGION WAS THE BASIS OF PAS' STRUGGLE, ITS
LEADERS WOULD SURELY NOT CULTIVATE A FEELING OF HATRED FOR THE
GOVERNMENT AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION WAS
EASILY INFLUENCED BY PAS LEADERS BECAUSE THEY WERE IGNORANT OF THE
PARTY'S ORIGIN.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER ATTENDED A THREE-HOUR MEETING OF THE
KELANTAN UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE. -- BERNAMA
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