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MAHATHIR-BN R R R R R R  
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, JULY 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

~~MOHAMAD~~ TODAY CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO ENSURE THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL CONTINUES TO REMAIN IN POWER IN THE COUNTRY AS THIS WILL ASSURE THEM OF CONTINUED PEACE, PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ONLY A COUNTRY HAVING SUCH CONTINUITY IN ITS GOVERNMENT WOULD ENJOY THIS BENEFIT, AS HAD BEEN PROVEN IN NOT ONLY MALAYSIA BUT SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

SINGAPORE, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA FOR EXAMPLE CLEARLY BENEFITTED IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE CHOSE THE SAME PARTY EACH TIME; HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE PULAI UMNO DIVISION AT TAMPOI NEAR HERE.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE PEOPLE SHOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN VIEW OF ITS RECORD OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD BEEN TESTED AND FOUND OUTSTANDING.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED AS +UTTER FABRICATIONS+ THE ALLEGATIONS BY OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SEVERAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS THAT CONTINUED VICTORY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD MAKE THE PARTY, ITS LEADERS AND ITS MEMBERS ARROGANT, PROUD AND IRRESPONSIBLE. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-BN 2 JOHOR BAHRU R R R R R R

THE TRACK RECORD OF BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS SHOWED THEY LIAISED CLOSELY WITH THE PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES AND NOT MERELY WHEN ELECTIONS WERE COMING, UNLIKE OPPOSITION LEADERS.

THE ALLIANCE IN THE PAST AND THE BN TODAY WERE NOT POWER-GREEDY, AND THE COALITION OF PARTIES REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES SHOWED THAT THE PEOPLE'S WELLBEING WAS ALWAYS IN THE MIND OF ITS LEADERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID BN HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A SPIRIT OF CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND THIS IN TURN ENSURED THE STABILITY, PEACE AND SUCCESS OF THE COUNTRY IN ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID OPPOSITION PARTIES, EVEN IF UNITED UNDER ONE ORGANISATION, COULD NOT POSSIBLY DO THE SAME BECAUSE OF THE DEVIIOUS NATURE OF THEIR LEADERS.

PAS FOR INSTANCE LABOURED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE CHINESE THROUGH THE CHINESE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (CCC) IN PERAK, BUT IN KELANTAN DENIED COOPERATING WITH NON-MUSLIMS. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-BN 3 JOHOR BAHARU \* \* \* \* \*

HE ALSO REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF THE HYPOCRISY OF PAS, SAYING IT HAD AT ONE TIME LABELLED UMNO AS +KAFIR+ (INFIDEL) FOR COOPERATING WITH NON-MUSLIMS BUT WAS NOW WILLING TO GO DOWN ON ITS KNEES TO GET THE COOPERATION OF THE DAP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THE BN A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, SAYING ONLY THAT IT WAS +NEAR+ AND THAT EVERY BN COMPONENT PARTY SHOULD BE IN READINESS TO HELP SECURE A LANDSLIDE WIN FOR THE BN.

HE STRESSED THAT THE ELECTION WOULD BE HELD, AND OPPOSITION PARTIES NEED NOT FEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CANCEL IT OR DECLARE EMERGENCY RULE IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, PRAISED THE JOHOR BN FOR ITS OUTSTANDING EFFORT IN ENSURING THE STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE BN IN THE STATE ALL THIS WHILE.

THIS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHER STATES. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-BN 4 JOHOR BAHARU \* \* \* \* \*

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS LATER, HE SAID ANYONE WAS FREE TO CONTEST FOR PARTY POSTS. HE WAS COMMENTING ON SYED HAMID ALBAR CHALLENGING ANWAR IBRAHIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UMNO YOUTH AT THE MOVEMENT'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD END OF THIS MONTH.

ASKED HIS VIEW ABOUT ENCIK ANWAR'S CHALLENGER BEING FROM JOHOR, HE SAID THE STATE FROM WHERE HE CAME SHOULD NOT BE MADE AN ISSUE. THE FACT THAT SYED HAMID CAME FROM JOHOR WAS COINCIDENTAL, HE SAID.

SEVERAL PROGRAMMES INCLUDING A SILAT DEMONSTRATION, LION DANCE, CHOIR SINGING AND HOISTING OF THE BN FLAG WERE HELD AS PART OF THE DIVISION'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WITNESSED BY THOUSANDS OF PARTY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS AS WELL AS LOCAL RESIDENTS.

PRESENT WERE UMNO YOUTH PRESIDENT ANWAR IBRAHIM AND SEVERAL DEPUTY MINISTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EARLIER PERFORMED FRIDAY PRAYERS AT THE GELANG PATAH MOSQUE AND JOINED PEOPLE OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES FOR LUNCH AT KAMPUNG MELAYU, GELANG PATAH.

HE AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR LATER THIS EVENING. -- BERNAMA  
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