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MAHATHIR-PAS

BN

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 4/86 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE DEFEAT SUFFERED BY PAS IN YESTERDAY'S GENERAL ELECTION SHOWED THAT THE PEOPLE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PARTY'S WAY OF DOING AS IT PLEASED.

+THE PEOPLE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PAS LEADERS WHO SEEM TO HAVE NO GUIDANCE AND ACTED AS THEY LIKED.+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE BARISAN NASIONAL SECURED ITS TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HELD THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE PRESS CENTRE SET UP BY THE BN AT DEWAN MERDEKA AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE FOR FOREIGN AND LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CALLED AT 6.40 THIS MORNING AFTER THE BN HAD WON 121 OF THE 177 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS TO GIVE IT A CLEAR TWO-THIRD MAJORITY.

HE SAID THE PAS LEADERS HAD BECOME ARROGANT BECAUSE THE VARIOUS CERAMAH THEY ORGANISED BEFORE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAD DRAWN LARGE CROWDS, ADDING THAT THIS GAVE THEM A FEELING OF STRENGTH TO DO AS THEY PLEASED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-PAS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

PAS ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE UP TO UMNO, ESPECIALLY IN KELANTAN, HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN THIS RESPECT PAS HAD MISREAD THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE VOTERS AS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANTED WAS STABILITY AND PEACE.

PAS' ELECTION STRATEGY SHOWED THAT THE PARTY HAD STILL NOT MATURED, HE ADDED.

TO A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS' EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION HAD LED TO THE PARTY'S DEFEAT AS THE PEOPLE WERE AWARE THAT PAS ONLY THOUGHT OF SECURING VOTES AND NOT FOR THE SAKE OF ISLAM.

HE CALLED ON PAS MEMBERS TO LEAVE THE PARTY FOR THEIR OWN GOOD AND MUSLIMS IN GENERAL.

ON THE BN'S VICTORY IN KELANTAN, HE SAID IT WAS THE RESULT OF PAS' ARROGANCE AND ALSO BECAUSE THE PEOPLE NO LONGER BELIEVED IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-PAS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE BN AT FIRST HAD DOUBTS ABOUT ITS OWN CAPABILITY FOLLOWING THE +SHOW OF STRENGTH+ BY PAS AT ITS CERAMAH IN THE STATE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE BN DISCOVERED THAT THE CROWDS AT THE PAS CERAMAH HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND WERE NOT LOCAL PEOPLE.

ON THE BN'S SUCCESS IN KEDAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS SATISFACTORY AS THE BN CANDIDATES HAD REFUTED ALL THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY PAS' STALWARTS.

AMONG THE PAS LEADERS WHO LOST IN KEDAH WERE DEPUTY PRESIDENT HAJI FADZIL NOR (KUALA KEDAH) AND VICE-PRESIDENT HAJI NAKHAIE AHMAD (JERAI).

ON THE OPPOSITION FRONT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ITS FORMATION WAS WITHOUT FIRM GROUNDING AND HAD PROVED INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE THE LEADERS OF THE MEMBER PARTIES DID NOT TRUST ONE ANOTHER. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-PAS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PAS-INITIATED FRONT WAS SET UP BEFORE NOMINATION DAY AND GROUPED NASMA, PSRM, WORKERS PARTY AND SDP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE +SMALL+ PARTIES NEED NOT HAVE EXPERIENCED THE BITTERNESS OF DEFEAT IF THEY HAD NOT BEEN SET UP IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HE FELT THAT THE +SMALL+ PARTIES WERE FORMED BY CERTAIN +DISENCHANTED+ PEOPLE WHO DID NOT GIVE ANY THOUGHT TO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHAT THE VOTERS NEEDED WERE CAPABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE FROM LARGE AND STRONG POLITICAL PARTIES.

ON THE FOUR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO WON SEATS IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AND LABUAN, HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED INTO THE BN.

-- BERNAMA

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