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MAHATHIR-DAP
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18, (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED THE DAP FOR AROUSING ANTI-MALAY SENTIMENTS AMONG THE CHINESE TO GAIN POPULARITY.

HE SAID THE DAP WAS A STRONGLY ANTI-MALAY PARTY WHICH HARPED ON ISSUES LIKELY TO CREATE CHINESE HATRED TOWARDS THE MALAYS AS THE BASIS OF ITS POPULARITY.

+AFTER WHIPPING UP ANTI-MALAY FEELINGS AMONG THE CHINESE AND REJECTING THE CONCEPT OF INTER-RACIAL COOPERATION AS ADVOCATED BY THE BARISAN NASIONAL, DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM KIT SIANG NOW APPEARS TO WANT RACIAL POLARISATION TO BE CHECKED,+ HE SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS STRANGE FOR SUCH A CALL TO COME FROM THE DAP WHICH HAD ALL THIS WHILE OPPOSED EFFORTS TO FOSTER UNITY.

HE QUESTIONED THE DAP'S DEWAN RAKYAT REPRESENTATION WHICH DID NOT FEATURE A SINGLE MALAY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT TO REFLECT THE MULTIRACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNTRY.

+DOES THE PARTY'S FAILURE TO HAVE EVEN ONE MALAY MP MEAN THAT FOR THE DAP, THERE ARE NO MALAYS IN MALAYSIA?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT IF THE DAP WANTED TO TALK ABOUT RACIALISM, IT WAS BETTER FOR IT TO FOCUS ON PAS WHICH HE SAID WAS ARMoured IN ITS OWN BRAND OF MALAY CHAUVINISM.

UMNO ON THE OTHER HAND WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE NON-MALAYS TO THE EXTENT OF BEING WILLING TO SUPPORT NON-MALAY BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES IN MALAY-MAJORITY CONSITUENCIES TO ENSURE THEIR VICTORY IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE MALAYS, IBANS, KADAZANS AND OTHER BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH THE CHINESE AND INDIANS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND CABINET TODAY, IT WAS THANKS TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE BN AND UMNO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUPING.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THOSE WHO WERE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT WOULD ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE GROUNDS TO JUSTIFY THEIR CLAIM THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE RULING PARTY.

JUST LIKE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THEY ENDED UP BELIEVING IN THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA AND WERE CONVINCED THE BN WOULD LOSE MANY SEATS AND BE A WEAK FORCE WHEN FORMING THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED. --
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WHEN THEIR PREDICTION FAILED TO MATERIALISE, THEY TOOK TO ANALYSING THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION TO PROVE THAT THEIR FORECAST WAS CORRECT AND THAT THE NUMBER OF SEATS WON BY THE BN (WHICH SECURED A COMFORTABLE TWO-THIRD MAJORITY) WAS A FALSE PICTURE OF THE EXTENT OF THE BN VICTORY.

+THE RESULT OF THEIR SELF-DELUSION IS THE CLAIM THAT 43 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORTED THE OPPOSITION AND ONLY 57 PERCENT SUPPORTED THE BN,+ HE ADDED.

+THERE WERE ALSO PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT THE BN VICTORY IN CERTAIN AREAS WAS BY ONLY A SLIM MARGIN, AS IF A SMALL MAJORITY IS NOT STILL A WIN.+

HE SAID OPPOSITION PARTIES ALSO FELL IN WITH THIS ASSUMPTION, WITH THE DAP CONTINUING TO ASSERT THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD OBTAINED 43 PERCENT OF THE VOTES.

WHAT THEY FAILED TO SEE WAS THAT THE 24 DAP MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DID NOT GET 43 PERCENT OF THE VOTES BECAUSE MANY OF THESE VOTES WENT TO OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO WERE NOT ALIGNED WITH THE DAP.

THE BN'S PORTION OF THE VOTES ON THE OTHER HAND DID NOT HAVE TO BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER PARTY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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