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MAHATHIR-POLITICS

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOHAMD SAID TODAY UMNO WILL NOT REACT TO THE CHAUVINISTIC TREND AMONG THE URBAN CHINESE COMMUNITY BY MAKING THE PARTY A MALAY RACIALIST ORGANISATION.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE PARTY BELIEVED IN AND SUBSCRIBED TO THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY ALTHOUGH IT WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE TREND.

OPENING THE 37TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE, HE SAID THAT UMNO WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS POLICY OF MULTIRACIALISM AND COOPERATION AMONG THE RACES REGARDLESS OF THE HARSH THINGS HURLED AT IT.

+THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT, HEADED BY UMNO, WILL CONTINUE TO UPHOLD JUSTICE AMONG THE RACES. THE POLICY OF HAVING A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE RACES IN MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THOUGH THE CHINESE-BASED PARTIES IN THE BN DID NOT WIN THE SEATS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION, THE NUMBER OF NON-MALAY MINISTERS HAD NOT BEEN REDUCED, HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT WITH UMNO HAVING WON 83 OF THE 84 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IT CONTESTED, IT SHOULD HAVE MORE SEATS IN THE CABINET.

THIS FACT, HE ADDED, WOULD NOT BE MENTIONED BY THOSE OUTSIDE UMNO BECAUSE +THEY ARE AFRAID THAT IF THEY DO SO THEY WILL BE GIVING RECOGNITION TO THE SINCERITY AND GENEROSITY OF UMNO.+

+WE DO NOT DO CERTAIN THINGS JUST TO BE PRAISED OR TO MAKE OTHERS OBLIGATED TO US. WE DO THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE GOOD AND JUST,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE EVEN THOSE WHO HAD SAID THAT WITHOUT THE CHINESE, UMNO MIGHT NOT HAVE WON IN THE ELECTION.

THEY IGNORED THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE RACES IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL, THE BASIS OF WHICH WAS TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.

THIS WAS PROVEN WHEN THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE BN WON BECAUSE OF SUPPORT OF THE MALAYS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE MALAYS WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH WHAT WAS CLEARLY SEEN AS THE CHAUVINISM OF THE DAP WHILE UMNO DID NOT HAVE SUCH AN ATTITUDE.

IN FACT, IF UMNO WANTED, IT COULD HAVE CONTESTED IN MORE THAN HALF OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS BUT IT WAS PREPARED TO GIVE PLACE TO OTHER BN COMPONENT PARTIES, HE ADDED.

ON THE BN'S OBTAINING OF 57 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES BUT FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE SEATS, HE SAID THIS WAS A NORMAL THING IN DEMOCRACY.

HE SAID THAT A COUNTRY WHICH GAVE PRIORITY TO THE VOTE WOULD FACE PROBLEMS IF MORE THAN TWO PARTIES CONTESTED.

HE SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE US, EACH STATE, REGARDLESS OF ITS POPULATION, WAS ONLY GIVEN TWO SEATS IN THE SENATE. -- MORE
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EVEN THE +RURAL+ STATES, WHERE MANY OF THE PEOPLE WERE FARMERS AND THEIR NUMBERS NOT BIG, THEY STILL HAD TWO SEATS IN THE SENATE, HE SAID.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WOULD CONTINUE WITH THE SYSTEM THAT GAVE +WEIGHTAGE+ TO THE RURAL AREAS AS THIS SYSTEM WAS THE BEST TO ENSURE POLITICAL STABILITY AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT.

IN FACT, THE DIVISION OF SEATS WHICH GAVE WEIGHT TOWARDS THE RURAL AREAS WAS A UNIVERSAL PRACTICE IN DEMOCRACY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MINORITY IN MALAYSIA SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THEY WERE TREATED BETTER IN COMPARISON WITH THE IMMIGRANTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, BOTH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS AND THOSE THAT HAD RECENTLY GAINED INDEPENDENCE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WAS EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHERE THE IMMIGRANTS HAD BECOME THE MAJORITY, THEY DID NOT GIVE OPPORTUNITIES OR TREATED WELL THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS WHO HAD BECOME THE MINORITY. -- MORE
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+IN THIS COUNTRY ALSO, SUCH A TREND CAN BE SEEN HAPPENING WHERE THEY ARE THE MAJORITY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CERTAIN TOWNS.+

+THEY REJECT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND LOUDLY CRITICISE THEM AS IF THE LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHTS WHATSOEVER.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE NON-BUMIPUTERAS OF THE FATE EXPERIENCED BY IMMIGRANTS IN SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IN AMERICA AND EUROPE WHERE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY HAD TO DISCARD THEIR ORIGINAL NAMES AND WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LEARN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES OR DO BUSINESS IN CERTAIN AREAS.

IN BRITAIN, EVEN THOUGH THE IMMIGRANTS COMPRISED MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, THEY HAD NO REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT THE NON-BUMIPUTERAS WOULD REALISE THAT THE MINORITY IN MALAYSIA WHO WERE DESCENDENTS OF THOSE WHO CAME TO THE COUNTRY DURING THE TIME OF THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION WERE GIVEN BETTER TREATMENT THAN THOSE IN BRITAIN ITSELF. -- BERNAMA
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