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MAHATHIR-INTEGRITY
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- ONLY UMNO HAS THE CAPABILITY TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE MALAYS, MALAYSIANS AND THE NATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE FUTURE OF THE MALAYS AND ISLAM AS WELL AS OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY LAY WITH UMNO, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE OTHER PARTIES WERE EITHER EXTREMIST OR CHAUVINISTIC IN OUTLOOK OR TOO SMALL TO RUN THE COUNTRY.

UMNO CONSTITUTED THE MOTIVATING FORCE THAT DREW OTHER MODERATE-MINDED PARTIES TOGETHER IN COOPERATION, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MODERATION WAS UMNO'S OWN CHOICE FOR IT REALISED THAT WITHOUT THIS, THE COUNTRY COULD BECOME DIVIDED AS HAD OCCURRED IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ALSO HAD MULTIRACIAL POPULATIONS. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM BY ITSELF DID NOT GUARANTEE JUSTICE AND WELLBEING, BUT SINCERE PRACTICE OF THE SYSTEM WOULD.

+AND UMNO IS A SINCERE AND HONEST PRACTITIONER OF DEMOCRACY,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT MANY OF THEM WERE UNABLE TO APPRECIATE THE MEANING OF BEING FREE FOR THEY HAD NOT EXPERIENCED THE BITTERNESS OF BEING COLONISED.

SUCH LACK OF AWARENESS COULD LULL THEM INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN INDIRECT COLONISATION ATTEMPTS WERE PERPETRATED ON THEM, HE SAID.

COLONISATION OF THIS NATURE COULD COME IN THE FORM OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES SINCE MALAYSIA PRACTISED AN OPEN ECONOMY.

+TODAY WE FEEL THE EFFECTS OF THESE ECONOMIC SUBJUGATION EFFORTS, WHERE THE PRICES OF OUR COMMODITIES HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT WE ARE FACING A RECESSION,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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COLONISATION COULD ALSO TAKE PLACE THROUGH CULTURE, HE SAID, RESULTING IN THE EROSION OF MALAYSIAN VALUES AND LOSS OF THE MALAYSIAN IDENTITY.

+WE COULD ALSO BE COLONISED THROUGH DADAH EVEN THOUGH WE PRODUCE NO DADAH. DADAH-TAKING IS ALIEN TO OUR CULTURE, BUT MOST OF THE ADDICTS ARE MALAY YOUTHS.

+THESE YOUNG PEOPLE CANNOT UPHOLD OUR INTEGRITY.+

ON THE ECONOMIC RECESSION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO REMAIN PATIENT AND TO BE THRIFTY.

HE SAID THEY COULD NO LONGER AFFORD TO LIVE AS THEY DID WHEN THE ECONOMY WAS BOOMING BUT MUST ADAPT TO THE CURRENT DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. -- BERNAMA

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