

B E731 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY  
BM

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EMBARGO: FOR USE AFTER 10.30 TONIGHT

SHAH ALAM, OCT 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WARNED TONIGHT THAT DEMOCRACY IN MALAYSIA COULD BE DESTROYED IF THE BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT MEMBERS OR ANY OTHER QUARTER ACTED BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF DEMOCRACY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WAS ABLE TO FLOURISH IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE COOPERATION OF THE PARTIES IN THE ALLIANCE AND IN ITS SUCCESSOR, THE BN, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE'S REJECTION OF ANYTHING THAT COULD HARM DEMOCRACY.

HE HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE ANYONE WHO WOULD ACT OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF DEMOCRACY AS THIS WOULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM THAT HAD PROVEN TO BE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY.

OPENING THE 34TH MIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BN PARTIES MUST CONTINUE TO BE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE THIS DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

AND TO SAFEGUARD BN UNITY AND DEMOCRACY, HE ADVISED LEADERS OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM VENTING THEIR FEELINGS IN PUBLIC AS ONCE THIS WAS DONE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY SIDE TO BACK DOWN. -- MORE

2021MST 10 10 86

B E739 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 2 SHAH ALAM (EMBARGO)

HE SAID BN LEADERS HAD VARIOUS AVENUES, INCLUDING THE CABINET, TO VOICE THEIR DISSATISFACTION ABOUT ANY POLICY OR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

IN THIS WAY AND THROUGH THESE CHANNELS, THERE WOULD BE LESS LIKELIHOOD OF THEM UPSETTING THE FEELINGS OF ANYONE, EVEN THE SMALLEST PARTY, HE SAID.

BN SOLIDARITY WOULD ALSO NOT LOOK SUSPECT WHILE ITS IMPACT IN POLITICS OR THE ECONOMY WOULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DEMOCRACY PRACTISED BY MOST COUNTRIES ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE AFTER WORLD WAR II HAD NOT SUCCEEDED AND WAS REPLACED BY MILITARY REGIMES OR OTHER FORMS OF AUTOCRATIC RULE.

HE SAID THIS OCCURRED BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OR RECOGNISE THE RESTRAINTS THAT MUST NECESSARILY BE RESPECTED IN A DEMOCRACY. -- MORE  
2058MST 10 10 86

B E740 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 3 SHAH ALAM (EMBARGO)

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE GROUPS CONSIDERING THEMSELVES MORE QUALIFIED FOR LEADERSHIP THAN THE LEADERS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE BUT WERE RELUCTANT TO GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS FOR FEAR THEY WOULD NOT FIND SUPPORT AMONG THE PEOPLE.

AS A RESULT, THEY TRIED TO MAKE USE OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO FOIL EVERY EFFORT UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE'S BENEFIT.

THEY ABUSED THESE RIGHTS TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT AGAINST THEM, EXPLOITING RACIAL SENTIMENTS WITH THE HOPE THE AUTHORITIES WOULD CLAMP DOWN ON THEIR ACTIVITIES AIMED AT CREATING CHAOS.

AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DID MOVE AGAINST THEM, THEY WOULD ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING UNDEMOCRATIC, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT THESE GROUPS WERE EVEN WILLING TO DOWNGRADE THEIR OWN COUNTRY IN THE EYES OF FOREIGNERS TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS.

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2103MST 10 10 86

B E741 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 4 SHAH ALAM (EMBARGO)

THE ACTIONS OF SUCH GROUPS HAD BROUGHT DOWN DEMOCRACY IN MANY COUNTRIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT DEMOCRACY IN ITSELF WOULD NOT ENSURE THE SUCCESS OR STABILITY OF A COUNTRY. THE KEY FACTOR WAS HOW THE SYSTEM WAS PRACTISED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF THERE WAS NO BN, SCORES OF SMALL PARTIES WOULD BE CONTESTING A GENERAL ELECTION AND THE COALITION GOVERNMENT THEY FORMED SUBSEQUENTLY WOULD NOT BE CAPABLE OF BRINGING ABOUT STABILITY.

HE ADVISED BN PARTIES AGAINST BEING COMPLACENT OVER THEIR SUCCESS IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION, AND ASKED EACH BN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO ARM HIMSELF WITH AN INTIMATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURES OF THE LEGISLATURE AS WELL AS THE ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS SURROUNDING EACH PIECE OF LEGISLATION

HE SAID THERE WERE ONE OR TWO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO LACKED INDEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THIS HAD BEEN THE CAUSE OF CONFLICTING VIEWS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PRAISED THE MIC FOR ITS UNITY AND SUCCESS IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION, WINNING ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IT WAS ALLOTTED, BUT CAUTIONED THE PARTY AGAINST BECOMING TOO AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS ITS BN PARTNERS. -- BERNAMA  
2107MST 10 10 86