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B E307 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO
BN

86 (P)
KUALA TERENGGANU, NOV 1 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO IS DRAWING UP A NUMBER OF STRATEGIES TO FUNCTION AS A MORE EFFECTIVE POLITICAL PARTY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT AND BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN SAID THE BN WOULD ALSO STEP UP EFFORTS TO OVERCOME RACIAL POLARISATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID UMNO LEADERS IN THREE STATES INCLUDING TERENGGANU HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON THE NEW STRATEGIES.

+I WILL EXPLAIN THE STRATEGIES TO UMNO LEADERS IN THE OTHER STATES IN THE COURSE OF MY NATIONWIDE TOUR,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE SULTAN MAHMUD AIRPORT HERE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO TERENGGANU.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EARLIER VISITED PERLIS AND KEDAH. -- MORE
1741MST 01 11 86

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B E308 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

THE NATIONWIDE TOUR IS ALSO TO ENABLE HIM TO EXPLAIN TO SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE 1987 BUDGET PROPOSALS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED AS YET TO DISCLOSE THE STRATEGIES BEING DRAWN UP TO FURTHER STREAMLINE UMNO'S MACHINERY.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, MY MEETINGS WITH UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AT STATE LEVEL DURING MY VISITS ARE HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH TERENGGANU UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS HERE YESTEDAY, HE HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF STREAMLINING THE PARTY EVEN THOUGH THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WAS STILL VERY FAR OFF.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY TO OVERCOME RACIAL POLARISATION AND ENSURE PEACE, HARMONY AND POLITICAL STABILITY. -- MORE
1745MST 01 11 86

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B E314 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

HE SAID THAT IN HIS MEETINGS WITH SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, HE HAD EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET POLICIES AND LISTENED TO THE POINTS RAISED BY THEM INCLUDING ON THE INCREASED INTEREST RATE FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND CAR LOANS.

FINANCE MINISTER DAIM ZAINUDDIN IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON OCT 24 ANNOUNCED THAT INTEREST RATE FOR HOUSING AND CAR LOANS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM FOUR PERCENT CURRENTLY TO SIX PERCENT. -- BERNAMA
1820MST 01 11 86