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MAHATHIR-CHOICE R R R R R R

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KUALA TERENGGANU, APRIL 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS A LINE OF THINKING AMONG A SECTION OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVING A +DUAL CHOICE+ CONCEPT FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

HE SAID THESE PEOPLE WANTED TO VOTE FOR PAS TO ENABLE THE OPPOSITION PARTY TO RULE AT STATE LEVEL BUT WOULD VOTE FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO CONTINUE AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

+SUCH A TREND IS VERY DANGEROUS AS NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON POLLING DAY AND WHO WILL WIN,+ HE TOLD A GATHERING OF 2,000 TERENGGANU BN LEADERS AT THE STATE STADIUM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS GROUP WHICH WAS TRYING TO DETERMINE THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PATTERN CLAIMED THAT IF THE BN WAS GIVEN TOO MUCH POWER, IT WOULD +DO AS IT PLEASES.+

HE WARNED THAT IF THE WISH OF THIS GROUP CAME TRUE, THERE WOULD BE A LOSS OF BALANCE AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE NATION WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC.

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2013MST 04 04 86

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MAHATHIR-CHOICE 2 KUALA TERENGGANU R R R R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GROUP'S RATIONALE WAS FLAWED. HE STRESSED THAT PAS, IF VOTED INTO POWER, WOULD BE ACTING AT ITS OWN WHIMS AND FANCIES AS IT HAD NO PLANS FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE.

HE SAID IT WAS ONLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE BN TO SECURE AT LEAST A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION AS THIS WOULD ENABLE IT TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY EFFECTIVELY.

A PARTY WITH A SMALL MAJORITY WOULD BE FEARFUL OF DOING ANYTHING AS IT WOULD BE HAUNTED BY THE PROSPECT OF ITS MEMBERS DEFECTING TO OTHER PARTIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE COUNTRY MIGHT NOT HAVE PEACE IF A GOVERNMENT DID NOT GET A CONVINCING MAJORITY.

+ONLY WITH A BIG MAJORITY CAN THE GOVERNMENT ACT DECISIVELY, KNOWING THAT ALTHOUGH ITS ACTION MAY NOT FIND FAVOUR WITH A MINORITY, THE ACTION WILL BENEFIT THE POPULATION IN GENERAL,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2040MST 04 04 86

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B E186 AAE
MAHATHIR-CHOICE 3 KUALA TERENGGANU R R R R R R

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO VOTE WISELY AND TO REJECT PAS WHICH HE SAID HAD CREATED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE PAS EXISTED, INCIDENTS THAT LOWERED THE DIGNITY OF THE MUSLIMS AND THE MALAYS HAD OCCURRED. THESE INCLUDED HAVING TWO IMAMS TO LEAD PRAYERS, SEPARATE BURIAL GROUNDS, GOING THROUGH A MARRIAGE CEREMONY TWICE, DISPUTES AMONG FAMILIES, BOYCOTTING ONE ANOTHER AND LABELLING OTHER MUSLIMS INFIDELS.

+BEFORE PAS CAME INTO BEING, THERE WERE NO SUCH INCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

TO NON-MUSLIMS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED THEM TO OBSERVE CAREFULLY THE BEHAVIOUR OF PAS LEADERS WHO HE SAID HAD INFLUENCED THEIR FOLLOWERS WITH FALSE TEACHINGS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE FOLLOWERS CONSIDERED IT +HALAL+ (SANCTIONED IN ISLAM) TO KILL GOVERNMENT PEOPLE OR UMNO MEMBERS, AS THEY HAD KILLED FOUR POLICEMEN IN THE NOVEMBER MEMALI INCIDENT.

HE URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO CONTINUE TO GET CLOSE TO PAS MEMBERS TO GUIDE THEM BACK TO THE RIGHT PATH. -- MORE
2044MST 04 04 86

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B E189 AAE
MAHATHIR-CHOICE 4 KUALA TERENGGANU R R R R R R

EARLIER, TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD SAID THE STATE BN, PARTICULARLY UMNO, HAD STARTED ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN A YEAR AGO TO COUNTER THE PROPAGANDA SPREAD BY PAS AMONG THE PEOPLE.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO UNITE TO ENSURE THE BN'S VICTORY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. -- BERNAMA
2046MST 04 04 86