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MACHANG, JULY 31 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD CLAIMED TODAY THAT A GROUP IN PAS HAD PLANTED ONE OF ITS OWN MEN IN THE PAS SIDE TO THE MUZAKARAH (DISCUSSION) BETWEEN UMNO AND PAS LEADERS EARLY THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THE TALKS FAILED.

LAUNCHING THE TARRING OF THREE ROADS AT A COST OF ABOUT \$1 MILLION IN KAMPUNG KUNITA HERE, HE SAID THAT AFTER THE MUZAKARAH, PAS PRESIDENT HAJI YUSUF RAWA WAS PROHIBITED FROM HAVING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR).

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DECISION TO HAVE THE MUZAKARAH WAS MADE SOLELY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY BUT IT WAS FRUSTRATED BY PAS ITSELF.

HE SAID PAS WAS NOW RELUCTANT TO MEET WITH UMNO WHICH WAS ALSO A MUSLIM PARTY BUT WAS MORE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DAP WHICH WAS NOT AN ISLAMIC-BASED ORGANISATION BUT A RACIALIST PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED PAS MEMBERS TO QUIT THE PARTY BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE, SAYING PAS ACTIONS WERE NOW BORDERING ON DEVIATION. HE INVITED THEM TO JOIN UMNO FOR THE WELLBEING OF THE MALAYS IN GENERAL.

SPEAKING AT KUALA KERAI LATER, HE REMINDED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO BEWARE OF CERTAIN QUARTERS CALLING THEMSELVES ULAMAS ALTHOUGH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RELIGION WAS SHALLOW. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-PLANT 2 MACHANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH +ULAMAS+ HAD APPEARED IN LARGE NUMBERS THIS GENERAL ELECTION AND HAD ISSUED VARIOUS FATWA (RELIGIOUS RULINGS) AIMED AT DIVIDING THE MUSLIMS FOR THE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES.

HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS SURE OF WINNING THE ELECTION AND THIS HAD BEEN CONCEDED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE DAP.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO OPENED THE \$25 MILLION SEKOLAH MENENGAH VOKASIONAL KUALA KERAI, THE LAST OFFICIAL FUNCTION ON THE ITINERARY FOR HIS SIX-HOUR VISIT TO KELANTAN.

BEFORE GOING TO MACHANG AND KUALA KERAI, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI AND MENTERI BESAR DATUK MOHAMED YAACOB, HAD MET BN LEADERS AND ELECTION WORKERS AND THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN KOTA BAHARU AND OPENED THE UMNO BUILDING IN JELAWAT, BACHOK.

PRIOR TO THIS, HE LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A SILK WEAVING FACTORY IN THE CHENDERING INDUSTRIAL AREA IN KUALA IBAI, KUALA TERENGGANU.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE IN PERLIS DAN KEDAH FROM TOMORROW UNTIL POLLING DAY ON SUNDAY. -- BERNAMA
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