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MEGAT-SLANDER  
BM

GOPENG, FEB 21<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB TODAY HIT OUT AT QUARTERS HE SAID ARE STEPPING UP THEIR SLANDERING OF PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WITH THE COMING OF THE UMNO CENTRAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS IN APRIL.

URGING UMNO MEMBERS TO BEWARE OF SUCH GROUPS, HE SAID THEIR ACTIONS COULD WEAKEN THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE.

ALTHOUGH UMNO DID NOT PREVENT CONTESTS FOR POSTS, SLANDERING OF OTHER PEOPLE DURING THE CAMPAIGNING WAS MOST DEPLORABLE, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE GOPEN UMNO DIVISION WANITA AND YOUTH DELEGATES' CONFERENCES HERE.

DATUK MEGAT JUNID SAID THERE WERE PEOPLE ACCUSING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR OF BEING THE RICHEST MAN AND OF HAVING COMMITTED VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES.

REFUTING SUCH ALLEGATIONS, HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WAS A LEADER WHO DAILY WORKED FROM MORNING TO NIGHT FOR THE NATION AND SINCE BEING IN THE CABINET DID NOT OWN EVEN ONE UNIT OF SHARE OR METRE OF LAND OR EVEN A TERRACE HOUSE IN KUALA LUMPUR. -- MORE

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ON CLAIMS THAT UMNO DID NOT CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE OTHER WAY ROUND, HE SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS COULD BE TRUE.

THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MEASURES WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE LEADERS WHO HAD RECEIVED THE MANDATE FROM THE MEMBERS THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

+THE VARIOUS NATIONAL POLICIES WERE DRAWN UP BASED ON PARTY RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT VARIOUS LEVELS. AS SUCH, I DO NOT SEE WHY THIS SHOULD BE AN ISSUE.+

ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GOPENG DUE TO THE INCARCERATION OF ITS MP TAN KOON SWAN WHO IS SERVING TIME IN CHANGI PRISON FOR ABETMENT IN CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST, DATUK MEGAT JUNID SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS READY TO FACE A BY-ELECTION IF ONE WAS HELD. --

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