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B E076 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO  
BM

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KOTA BAHARU, MARCH 12 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY WILL BE MEANINGLESS IF THE ELECTION OF LEADERS IS CARRIED OUT MERELY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY WHICH IS THE PILLAR OF STRENGTH OF A PARTY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT WHILE UMNO MEMBERS WERE FREE TO CHOOSE ANY LEADER TO HEAD THE PARTY, AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, THEY MUST ENSURE THAT SOLIDARITY CONTINUED IN THE PARTY AND THAT ALL MEMBERS WERE UNITED.

OPENING THE KELANTAN UMNO BUILDING HERE, HE SAID THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY WOULD NOT HAVE MEANING IF IT RESULTED IN DISUNITY AND DESTRUCTION OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID THAT UMNO'S STRUGGLE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IF THE PARTY WAS STRONG, ADDING THAT THIS DEPENDED ON THE SOLIDARITY OF THE MEMBERS.

HOWEVER, THE PARTY STRUGGLE WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IF THE LEADER WHO WON IN A CONTEST DID NOT GET FULL SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS BECAUSE OF A SPLIT AMONG THEM, HE ADDED. -- MORE  
2023MST 12 03 87

D428

B E086 AAE  
MAHATHIR - UMNO 2 KOTA BAHARU

HE SAID THAT SUCH LEADERS WOULD NOT BE RESPECTED BY ALL MEMBERS, ADDING THAT FOR A PARTY TO BE STRONG AND EFFECTIVE, THE PARTY LEADER MUST HAVE POPULAR SUPPORT.

WITHOUT POPULAR SUPPORT, A LEADER WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE AT ALL BECAUSE THE PARTY STRUGGLE WAS NOT BASED ON INTELLIGENCE ALONE, HE SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS MUST UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE PARTY SO THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY INCIDENT OF DEFEATED LEADERS LEAVING THE PARTY TO FIGHT AGAINST IT.

HE SAID CHANGES OF LEADERS WOULD CONTINUE TO OCCUR AND IT WOULD NOT SERVE ANY PURPOSE IF THE CHANGES LED TO DESTRUCTION.

HE SAID THAT UMNO WAS HELD IN ESTEEM AND RESPECTED BY OTHER PARTIES BECAUSE OF ITS STRENGTH WHICH WAS DERIVED FROM THE UNITY AMONG THE MEMBERS AND WHICH ENABLED IT TO BE THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT, BOTH AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT WANT A SITUATION WHERE BECAUSE OF DISUNITY, HISTORIANS +IN THE YEAR 2000+ WOULD WRITE ABOUT THE FALL OF UMNO. -- MORE  
2106MST 12 03 87

D436

B E092 AAE  
MAHATHIR - UMNO 3 KOTA BAHARU

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE MEMBERS TO HAVE A LOVE FOR THE PARTY BECAUSE UMNO WAS THE ONLY PARTY THAT COULD UNITE ALL THE MALAYS +FROM PERLIS TO JOHOR+ BASED ON THE SLOGAN +BERSATU, BERSETIA DAN BERKHIDMAT+ (UNITY, LOYALTY AND SERVICE).

HE SAID THAT THE PARTY HAD ENEMIES, LIKE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE ZIONISTS, WESTERN CAPITALISTS AND OTHERS.

HOWEVER, UMNO'S ENEMIES ALSO INCLUDED PARTY MEMBERS, HE SAID.

THERE WERE PARTY MEMBERS WHO WERE SO OBSESSED WITH CERTAIN THINGS THAT THEY FORGOT THE RESPONSIBILITY ENTRUSTED TO THEM TO STRUGGLE AND DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF THE RACE, NATION AND RELIGION, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT UMNO WAS NOT THE PROPERTY OF ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO STRIVED FOR THE INTEREST OF A LEADER BUT THE PROPERTY OF THE FUTURE GENERATION WHO WOULD CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE OF THE MALAYS.

IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARTY LEADERS AND MEMBERS TO LEAVE UMNO TO THE FUTURE GENERATION IN A CONDITION THAT WAS NOT CHAOTIC, HE ADDED.

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2119MST 12 03 87

B E093 AAE  
MAHATHIR - UMNO 4 KOTA BAHARU

EARLIER, STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE HEAD DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB SAID THAT IT WAS NOT COMPULSORY TO HAVE CONTESTS FOR PARTY POSTS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT CONTESTS SHOULD BE HELD WHEN IT WAS NECESSARY, IN LINE WITH THE DEMOCRACY PRACTISED BY UMNO.

DATUK HAJI MOHAMED, WHO IS MENTERI BESAR, WAS CONFIDENT THAT CONTESTS IN THE PARTY WOULD NOT AFFECT ITS UNITY IF CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION.

THERE MIGHT BE QUARTERS INSTIGATING UMNO LEADERS, BUT HAVING CONTESTS WOULD NOT DESTROY AND BURN UP UMNO, HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PARTY WOULD REMAIN STRONG AND UNITED AND PROVE WRONG THOSE THAT SAID THAT UMNO WOULD BREAK UP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER STRUCK A GONG TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE BUILDING.

PRESENT WERE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, INFORMATION MINISTER TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, THE MENTERIS BESAR OF TERENGGANU, PAHANG AND NEGERI SEMBILAN AS WELL AS MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI RAHIM TAMBY CHIK. -- BERNAMA.

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