

D281

B E422 AAE

MAHATHIR-UMNO R R R R R R R R R R R
BM

87 (P)

KUALA KUBU BHARU, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS IS STILL +WEAK+ AND TO PRESERVE THEIR POLITICAL DOMINANCE, UMNO SHOULD NOT FALL INTO DISUNITY AS A RESULT OF UNHEALTHY CONTEST FOR PARTY POSTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT SAID ANY MEMBER COULD STAND FOR ANY POST BUT THIS SHOULD BE OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE RACE AND RELIGION AND NOT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL AMBITIONS.

HE FEARED THAT IF MEMBERS CONTESTED SOLELY TO FULFILL THEIR OWN ASPIRATIONS WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PARTY, UNHEALTHY CAMPAIGN PRACTICES SUCH AS THE SPREADING OF SLANDER WOULD WRECK PARTY UNITY.

OPENING THE DELEGATES' MEETING OF THE ULU SELANGOR UMNO DIVISION AT THE RELIGIOUS SECONDARY SCHOOL HERE, HE SAID THAT IF UMNO BECAME DIVIDED, THE MALAYS WOULD BE THE ONES TO SUFFER FROM THE CONSEQUENCES WHILE THE WINNERS IN THE CONTEST FOR PARTY POSTS WOULD INHERIT AN UMNO WEAKENED BY DIVISENESS.

HE SAID THE PARTY CONSTITUTION ALLOWED CONTEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY BUT CAUTIONED THAT IF THE VICTORIOUS CANDIDATE FAILED TO WIN BY A CONVINCING MARGIN, THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT BE RESPECTED BY OTHER QUARTERS. -- MORE
1856MST 14 03 87

B E425 AAE

MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA KUBU BHARU R R R R R R R R R R R

PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE DIVISIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE, THE FIRST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WERE SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD BIN MUHAMMAD TAIB WHO IS DIVISION HEAD AND SELANGOR UMNO LIAISON CHIEF DATUK AHAMD RAZALI ALI.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED NOT TO OPEN DIVISIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCES THIS YEAR FOR FEAR HIS SPEECHES WOULD BE MISCONSTRUED BY PEOPLE AS SELF-CAMPAIGNING.

HOWEVER, IN DEFERENCE TO SEVERAL REQUESTS, HE CHANGED HIS MIND, AND HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS CAMPAIGNING FOR UMNO, THE MALAYS, ISLAM AND ALL THE PEOPLE.

+THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS MEANINGLESS FOR A PERSON TO ACHIEVE HIS POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS, BUT AT THE EXPENSE OF UMNO'S POSITION. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT UMNO REMAIN STRONG, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS AND ISLAM,+ HE ADDED.

THE PARTY WAS NOT ESTABLISHED TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF ANY LEADER BUT TO UNITE AND RALLY THE MALAYS WHOSE POSITION, HE SAID, WAS STILL WEAK, AND TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INTERESTS. -- MORE

1923MST 14 03 87

B E431 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA KUBU BHARU R R R R R R R R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EVERY UMNO MEMBER WAS A UNIT OF STRENGTH FOR THE PARTY AND THEY SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO CONSOLIDATE MALAY UNITY.

+MALAYS ARE STILL WEAK. WE MUST NOT THINK MALAYS NO LONGER NEED UNITY JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE TODAY SEVERAL MALAY MILLIONAIRES AND PROFESSIONALS,+ HE SAID.

HE REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PARTY CONSTITUTION ALLOWED FREE CONTEST FOR POSTS, EXERCISE OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS WITHOUT A CONCOMITANT SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BRING ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS TO THE PARTY.

+I AM NOT SAYING THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT BE CHALLENGED BECAUSE WHOEVER BECOMES PRESIDENT IS NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE CONTEST FOR THE POST CAN AFFECT PARTY UNITY,+ HE ADDED.

HE REGRETTED THAT DURING THE CAMPAIGNING IN THE ON-GOING PARTY ELECTIONS, ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD. -- MORE
1944MST 14 03 87

D308

B E433 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA KUBU BHARU R R R R R R R R R R

+MY HOUSE, MY CAR, ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT. I HAVE ONLY ONE HOUSE, IN ALOR SETAR, AND ANYONE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE ME CAN CHECK FOR HIMSELF. THE HOUSE IN GENTING HIGHLANDS SAID TO BE MINE BELONGS TO ENCIK DAIM (FINANCE MINISTER),+ HE ADDED.

HE ADVISED THOSE SPREADING THE ALLEGATION TO STOP DOING THIS TO A FELLOW MUSLIM, SAYING SPREADING OF SLANDER COULD AROUSE HATRED AGAINST THE PERSON CONCERNED AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BECOME UNABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE TRUTH FROM LIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ADVISED MEMBERS INTENDING TO CONTEST FOR TOP PARTY POSTS NOT TO +GO ALL OUT+ AS THIS WAS BOUND TO BRING ABOUT DISUNITY IN THE PARTY.

SINCE THE COUNTRY ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE, FOUR PEOPLE HAD BECOME UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, NOT THROUGH THEIR OWN MACHINATIONS BUT THROUGH THE WILL OF GOD.

HE SAID HE WAS MAKING THIS POINT, NOT TO CAMPAIGN, BUT TO PROTECT PARTY UNITY.

+I WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PARTY FOR AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE WANT ME. IF I AM NO LONGER WANTED, JUST SAY SO, THERE IS NO NEED TO PUSH ME AND MAKE ME FALL,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1959MST 14 03 87