

VOOU

B E575 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO

87 (P) --
MASJID TANAH, MARCH 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTEST FOR KEY POSTS
IN THE PARTY NOT TO USE DEMOCRACY AS THE SOLE REASON FOR DOING SO.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT A DEMOCRATIC
SYSTEM PROVIDED FOR CONTESTS FOR ANY POSTS BUT THOSE CONCERNED
SHOULD REFRAIN FROM CONTESTING FOR POSTS IF THEY REALISED THAT THEIR
MOVE WOULD NOT BENEFIT THE PARTY.

OPENING THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE ALOR GAJAH UMNO DIVISION
HERE, HE SAID THAT PARTY MEMBERS MUST PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE
PARTY, NATION, RELIGION AND RACE ABOVE ALL ELSE WHEN THINKING ABOUT
CONTESTING FOR ANY POST.

+IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IF THERE IS NO CONTEST THERE IS NO
DEMOCRACY. IF HAVING A CONTEST WILL BE NOT BENEFICIAL, WHAT IS THE
USE OF CONTESTING?+ HE ASKED.

+ONE SHOULD NOT, MERELY BECAUSE OF HIGH AMBITIONS, DECIDE TO
CONTEST,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1631MST 15 03 87

D662

B E577 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 MASJID TANAH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DEMOCRACY COULD BE LIKENED TO A
SHARP KNIFE THAT NOT ONLY COULD BE USED TO CUT OUT BEAUTIFUL SHAPES
OF FLOWERS FROM CUCUMBERS OR PAPAYAS BUT ALSO SOMETHING THAT COULD
BE USED FOR KILLING.

THE RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH THE HAND USING THE KNIFE, HE SAID,
ADDING THAT THE SAME THING APPLIED TO DEMOCRACY.

ON ELECTION TO THE PARTY'S CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AT NEXT MONTH'S
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE SAID THE MEMBERS MUST CONSIDER THE CONTESTS AS
+FRIENDLY MATCHES+ AND NOT BATTLES AMONG ENEMIES.

HE REMINDED PARTY MEMBERS NOT TO EQUATE THE PARTY ELECTION
CAMPAIGN WITH THAT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, HARSH WORDS WERE USED TO
RUN DOWN THE RIVAL PARTIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE WOUND WOULD BE
HARD TO HEAL LATER. -- MORE
1634MST 15 03 87

D671

B E582 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 MASJID TANAH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THOSE SEEKING ELECTION TO POSTS
NOT TO SAY HARSH THINGS ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AS THIS WOULD HAVE A BAD
EFFECT ON UMNO, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE WAS A GENERAL ELECTION LATER
ONE.

HE ASKED WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE PARTY IF DURING THE CONTESTS FOR
PARTY POSTS MEMBERS SAID THAT A CERTAIN PERSON OR THE LEADERSHIP OF
SOMEONE WAS NO GOOD BUT STATED OTHERWISE DURING THE GENERAL
ELECTION.

+IN THE END, THE PARTY ITSELF WILL BE WEAK,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT NO ONE COULD CLAIM THAT HE OWNED UMNO AS THE PARTY
BELONGED TO ALL MEMBERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF HE CAMPAIGNED, IT WAS IN THE
PARTY'S INTEREST AND NOT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO REMAIN PRESIDENT AS IT
WAS UMNO THAT WOULD DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE MALAYS AND OTHER
CITIZENS. -- MORE

1652MST 15 03 87

0680

B E585 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 MASJID TANAH

+UMNO'S STRUGGLE WILL BE MEANINGLESS IF I REACH THE SKY WHILE THE PEOPLE KEEP CLOSE TO THE GROUND,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE FOR UMNO MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THEIR LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS, REGARDLESS OF WHO THE LEADERS WERE.

+WHEN DATUK (NOW TUN) HUSSEIN ONN WAS PRIME MINISTER, THERE WERE MANY OF HIS ACTIONS THAT I DID NOT AGREE WITH BUT I DID NOT SAY THIS IN PUBLIC BECAUSE MY RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO ENSURE THAT HE HAD 100 PERCENT SUPPORT FROM PARTY MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE SUPPORT WAS GIVEN NOT BECAUSE HIS LEADER WAS TUN HUSSEIN BUT BECAUSE OF UMNO.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK, WHEN HE WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DID NOT AGREE WITH SEVERAL ACTIONS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN BUT TUN RAZAK ALSO DID NOT MAKE THIS PUBLIC. -- MORE

1710MST 15 03 87

0688

B E590 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 MASJID TANAH

+TUN RAZAK DID NOT ANNOUNCE TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THIS WAS CONTRARY TO OUR CUSTOMS AND WOULD WEAKEN THE TUNKU UNTIL HE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING AND NOT BE RESPECTED ... THE LOSER WOULD HAVE BEEN UMNO ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THERE WERE ACTIONS BY CERTAIN PARTY LEADERS WHO +TIED DOWN+ THEIR SUPPORTERS BY INSTIGATING THEM TO HAVE HATRED FOR THEIR RIVALS.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE MEMBERS WHO PUT ON +SOUR FACES+ AND REFUSED TO GREET ONE ANOTHER.

EVEN IF THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT, IT WAS BETTER TO RESOLVE MATTERS IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AS FEELINGS OF HATRED WOULD COLOUR ONE'S VIEWS UNTIL ONE WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE THE GOOD IN THE OTHER PERSON, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1724MST 15 03 87