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KEMAMAN, MARCH 20<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS TODAY TO ALWAYS UPHOLD THE TRUTH AND NEVER LIE OR DEVIATE FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT MEMBERS MUST ALWAYS KEEP THEIR WORDS SO THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.

OPENING THE DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE KEMAMAN UMNO DIVISION HERE, HE SAID THAT UMNO, AS THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT, NEED TO CONSTANTLY UPHOLD THE TRUTH TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF THE PARTY.

HE SAID THE VICTORY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, AND IN PARTICULAR UMNO, IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION CAME ABOUT THROUGH THE FRANK AND OPEN ATTITUDE OF THE MEMBERS IN SPEAKING THE TRUTH TO THE PEOPLE.

+DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WE TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT THE NATION WAS FACING AN ECONOMIC RECESSION BECAUSE OF THE WORLD RECESSION. IF WE NOW SAY THAT THE NATION IS FACING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF OTHER REASONS, THE PEOPLE WILL REGARD US TO BE NOT SINCERE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT IF IN THE PAST UMNO MEMBERS SUPPORTED AND SAID THAT THE PARTY'S PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES WERE GOOD BUT NOW STATED OTHERWISE, THE PEOPLE WOULD BECOME CONFUSED AND START ASKING QUESTIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE MEMBERS WOULD NOT BE SWAYED BY THE INSTIGATION OF THOSE WITH SELF-INTERESTS TO PREVENT A LOSS TO EVERYONE.

HE SAID THAT IF UMNO MEMBERS WERE SO SELF-CENTRED TO THE EXTENT OF BEING PREPARED TO LIE AND IGNORE THE INTEREST OF THE PARTY, RACE AND NATION, UMNO WOULD SURELY BREAK UP AND THIS WOULD MAKE THE GOVERNMENT WEAK.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS TO ALWAYS BE VIGILANT AND NOT TO BE SO OBSESSED WITH THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY UNTIL THEY WERE PREPARED TO SET ASIDE THEIR CUSTOMS.

HE SAID THAT DEMOCRACY AS PRACTISED IN THE WEST COULD DESTROY THEM IF THEY WERE NOT CAUTIOUS AND PAID ATTENTION TO THEIR OWN CUSTOMS. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT AS MALAYS, UMNO MEMBERS MUST SHOW RESPECT TO THEIR ELDERS AS THIS WAS THEIR CUSTOM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT PARTY MEMBERS MUST ENSURE THAT THE PARTY DID NOT BREAK UP AS A RESULT OF THE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN PEOPLE BUT ON THE OTHER HAND ENSURED THAT THE NATION CONTINUED TO BE STABLE.

HE PRAYED THAT THE MEMBERS COULD DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN WHAT WAS TRUTH AND WHAT WAS NOT.

THIS WAS BECAUSE IF THE NATION WAS RULED BY AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WAS INSINCERE, THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY TRYING TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT AND ACQUIRE ONE THAT WAS BETTER, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS FAIR, TOLERANT AND RESPONSIBLE, ADDING THAT HE HIMSELF DID NOT PROHIBIT ANYONE FROM CASTING ASPERSIONS AGAINST HIM THROUGH BOOKS OR OTHER MEANS. -- BERNAMA

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