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MAHATHAIR-GROUP R R R R R R R R R R R
BM

JITRA, MARCH 21⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED AN INCIDENT AT THE GUA MUSANG UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING YESTERDAY AS PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF CLIQUES AND FACTIONALISM IN UMNO. (P)

HE SAID THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN WHEN A NUMBER OF GUESTS FROM SEVERAL STATES WERE APPLAUDED BY THE DELEGATES PRESENT BUT KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK MOHAMED YAAKOB AND UMNO MALAYSIA INFORMATION CHIEF SENATOR HUSSEIN AHMAD WERE BOOED WHEN INTRODUCED TO THE GATHERING.

THE DELEGATES' CONFERENCE OF THE GUA MUSANG DIVISION WAS OPENED BY UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM. DIVISION HEAD IS TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE AT THE DELEGATES MEETING OF HIS KUBANG PASU DIVISION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS TO AVERT SUCH A TREND THAT HE SUGGESTED THE UMNO TOP LEADERSHIP POSTS NOT BE CONTESTED MERELY TO FULFIL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. -- MORE
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ACCORDING TO HIM, THE FULL PRACTICE OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY DID NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS AS SEVERAL WESTERN COUNTRIES SUCH AS ITALY AND FRANCE HAD FAILED TO FORM A STRONG GOVERNMENT THAT COULD BRING THEIR PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT.

HE REITERATED HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE KUBANG PASU DIVISION VICE-PRESIDENCY NOT BE CONTESTED, STRESSING HOWEVER THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN HE WAS TRYING TO CURTAIL THE FREEDOM OF MEMBERS TO STAND FOR THE POST.

+WHAT IS THE POINT OF CONTESTING IF THIS WILL BRING DISUNITY AMONG US?+ HE ASKED.

HE CLAIMED UMNO BECAME DIVIDED WHEN DATUK ONN JAAFAR WAS DEFEATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BY TENGGU ABDUL RAHMAN AND THEREUPON LEFT TO FORM ANOTHER PARTY.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE TIME OF THE TUNKU UP TO THE TIME OF THE LATE TUN RAZAK, THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTEST FOR KEY PARTY POSTS EXCEPT IN CASES OF A VACANCY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED HE WOULD NOT STEP DOWN BECAUSE OF WHAT HE TERMED AS THE DIRTY TACTICS OF A CERTAIN GROUP OUT TO GRAB POSTS. -- BERNAMA

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