

D835

B E897 AAE
MAHATHIR-PARTY * * *
BM

87 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPRESSED FEARS TODAY THAT UMNO WILL BE REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IF ACTS OF CHALLENGING THE PARTY PRESIDENT, HURLING SLANDER AND DISCREDITING THE PARTY BECOME THE PRACTICE EACH TIME PARTY ELECTIONS ARE HELD.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT REMINDED THOSE WISHING TO CONTEST TOP PARTY POSTS THAT IF THIS BECAME A PRACTICE, IN THE END UMNO WOULD +WIN THE CHEER BUT LOSE THE FIGHT.+

+I WISH TO ASK IN A NICE WAY ... DON'T DO THIS IN THE INTEREST OF UMNO,+ HE SAID WHEN SIMULTANEOUSLY OPENING THE DELEGATES' CONFERENCE OF SEVEN UMNO DIVISIONS IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY AT THE DEWAN MERDEKA OF THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

HE SAID IF THOSE USING SUCH MEANS TO CAMPAIGN WON, VICTORY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS TO UMNO BECAUSE THE PARTY WOULD NO LONGER BE UNITED AND RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE STRESSED THAT UMNO WAS THE ONLY PARTY ON WHICH MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY DEPENDED AND THE PARTY SHOULD THEREFORE BE STRONG NOT ONLY TO SAFEGUARD THE WELFARE OF THE PRESENT MALAYS BUT ALSO THEIR FUTURE GENERATION. -- MORE

1916MST 22 03 87

D865

B E924 AAE
MAHATHIR-PARTY 2 KUALA LUMPUR * * *

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DETAILED HOW SUCH PRACTICES OF SLANDERING AND CHALLENGING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP COULD BRING ABOUT A LOSS TO THE PARTY.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION, GENERAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD ONCE IN FIVE YEARS WHILE UMNO ELECTIONS WERE HELD EVERY THREE YEARS.

+WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THERE WERE FOUR TOUGHLY FOUGHT ELECTIONS (TWO GENERAL ELECTIONS AND TWO UMNO ELECTIONS.+)

+IF THE UMNO ELECTION WAS HELD BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION, WITH ALL THE SLANDER AND RUNNING DOWN OF THE PARTY, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO WIN THE GENERAL ELECTION,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO ALLOW THEIR DESIRE TO RULE THEIR THINKING TO THE EXTENT OF BEING UNABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD. -- MORE

2008MST 22 03 87

D875

B E937 AAE
MAHATHIR-PARTY 3 KUALA LUMPUR * * *

HE SAID PARTY MEMBERS COULD CHECK ON THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM PERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THAT HE OWNED SEVERAL HOUSES TO SEE IF THESE WERE TRUE.

REMINDING PARTY MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH PROVERB, +DON'T CHANGE HORSES IN MID-STREAM+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE WAVES WOULD STIFLE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY.

MEMBERS SHOULD +CHANGE HORSES+ ONLY WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HE COULD STILL WORK AND WAS PREPARED TO DO SO AND WOULD STEP DOWN WHEN THE TIME CAME BUT +DON'T PUSH ME DOWN.+

HE SAID PERSONAL QUESTIONS DID NOT ARISE IN THE UMNO ELECTIONS THIS TIME BECAUSE HE WAS NOT A DICTATOR AND ASKED THOSE PRESENT WHETHER THEY WERE PREPARED TO ALLOW THE PARTY TO BE AFFECTED JUST BECAUSE THERE WERE PEOPLE ASPIRING TO SECURE POSTS.

HE ADVISED UMNO MEMBERS TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES MEMBERS OF A FAMILY AND STRUGGLE FOR THE PARTY WITHOUT CONSIDERING SELF-IMPORTANCE. -- BERNAMA

2024MST 22 03 87