

B E836 AAE

MAHATHIR-GHAFAR R R R R R

BM

(P)

064

TELOK INTAN, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED OPEN SUPPORT FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA TO CONTEST THE PARTY'S DEPUTY PRESIDENCY AT THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT MONTH.

HE SAID THAT ENCIK GHAFAR SHOULD BE ELECTED TO THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENCY IN LINE WITH HIS POST AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

ENCIK GHAFAR HAS SO FAR NOT SAID WHETHER HE WILL BE CONTESTING THE POST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS OPENING THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE PASIR SALAK UMNO DIVISION AT THE TOWN HALL HERE, ALSO SPOKE ON THE LOYALTY SHOWN BY ENCIK GHAFAR BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

ENCIK GHAFAR, HE SAID, HAD HELD THE POST OF UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT FOR 25 YEARS AND HAD NEVER GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO SEEK TO BE RETURNED AT THE PARTY'S ELECTIONS.

HE SAID THAT ENCIK GHAFAR WAS ELECTED BASED ON +HIS NAME+.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH ENCIK GHAFAR COULD HAVE IN THE PAST CONTESTED THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE PARTY, HE HAD NOT DONE SO BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO CREATE PROBLEMS. -- MORE

1456MST 22 03 87

B E847 AAE

MAHATHIR-GHAFAR 2 TELUK INTAN

PARA) R R R R R

+NOW, ONLY AFTER HAVING BEING APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DOES HE WANT TO CONTEST THE POST OF PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

+I SUPPORT HIS NOMINATION. THE TIME HAS COME FOR HIM TO DO SO (CONTEST THE POST),+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE COULD NOT SUPPORT THE NOMINATION OF OTHER LEADERS FOR THE POST BECAUSE, HE SAID, ENCIK GHAFAR'S OPPONENT +SAY ONE THING WHEN IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ANOTHER WHEN OUTSIDE.+

+I ALSO CANNOT SUPPORT PARTY LEADERS WHO CRITICISE GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT HAD BEEN COLLECTIVELY DECIDED UPON (BY THOSE) IN THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT SUPPORT GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO RELINQUISH THEIR POST, HE SAID, BUT ADDED THAT THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE BENEFITS THEY ENJOYED AS MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS. -- MORE

1622MST 22 03 87

B E840 AAE

MAHATHIR-GHAFAR 3 TELUK INTAN R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO HAVE CONTESTS FOR POSTS THAT WERE NOT VACANT AS BY NOT HAVING SUCH CONTESTS CONFLICT AND DISUNITY IN THE PARTY COULD BE AVOIDED.

HE SAID THAT HE SUPPORTED DATUK MUSA (TO RETAIN HIS DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S POST) IN THE 1984 PARTY ELECTION BASED ON THIS SAME POLICY, ADDING THAT APPARENTLY THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME LIKED THAT FORM OF CAMPAIGN.

+BUT THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT IS NOW ANGRY WHEN I SPEAK ABOUT TRADITION AND ON THE OTHER HAND SPEAKS ABOUT PURE DEMOCRACY, WANTING TO FIGHT AND SO FORTH,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO A SPEECH BY ONE OF THE LEADERS. NOT LONG AGO, (+I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE LEADER'S NAME+) WHO WANTED THE MALAYS AND UMNO MEMBERS +TO BE A LITTLE RUDE+ AND ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS NOW CREATING CONFLICT IN THE PARTY THROUGH ACCUSATIONS AND PROPAGANDA.

THE ATTITUDE OF BEING RUDE WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT AT A RECENT UMNO MEETING IN GUA MUSANG WHEN PARTY LEADERS WERE RIDICULED BY THE HOSTS, HE SAID. -- MORE

D728

B EB44 AAE
MAHATHIR-GHAFAR 4 TELUK INTAN R'R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY THE HOSTS TOWARDS THEIR GUESTS WAS AGAINST MALAY AND UMNO TRADITION AND IF SUCH RUDE LEADERS WERE ELECTED, THE FUTURE OF UMNO WOULD NOT BE ASSURED.

HE SAID IT WAS VITAL FOR LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT ELECTION TO BE WELL-MANNERED AND DISCIPLINED AND SHOULD ABIDE BY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, PECULIAR TO MALAYSIA, SO THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY FORM OF DISUNITY.

EXPRESSING REGRET THAT THERE WERE TWO CAMPS IN UMNO, HE SAID THIS WAS BOUND TO CREATE SUSPICION AND DOUBTS AMONG PARTY MEMBERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AT FIRST HE DID NOT WANT TO CAMPAIGN BUT WAS FORCED TO DO SO WHEN HIS NAME WAS DRAGGED IN AND ALL TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS WERE HURLED AT HIM AND OTHER PARTY LEADERS.

ON THE CLAIM BY SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS THAT THAT THEY +LOVED+ HIM BUT DID NOT LIKE THOSE AROUND HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT THE +LOVE+ THAT WAS MENTIONED CONTAINED POISON. -- MORE
1604MST 22 03 87

D740

B EB48 AAE
MAHATHIR-GHAFAR 5 TELUK INTAN R'R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE +HOT+ CAMPAIGN BEING CARRIED OUT WAS NOT FOR THE POSTS OF PARTY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT BUT IN REALITY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSTS.

THE FIGHT FOR POSITION IN THE PARTY WAS TO GRAB POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT IF THIS WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MCA WOULD ALSO SPILL OVER TO UMNO.

+I DO NOT WISH TO BE UMNO PRESIDENT FOR LIFE. UMNO LEADERS SHOULD BE PATIENT. BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IS THAT THEY ARE IMPATIENT, THUS GIVING RISE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION.+

+I CANNOT ADVISE OTHERS NOT TO CONTEST. BUT THE DELEGATES WILL BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE ELECTED. THE DELEGATES SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN MAKING THEIR CHOICE SO THAT THOSE GREEDY FOR POWER ARE NOT ELECTED.+

PRESENT WERE PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB WHO IS ALSO PASIR SALAK DIVISION HEAD, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB AND DEPUTY NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK TAJOL ROSLI GHAZALI. -- BERNAMA
1626MST 22 03 87