

D302

B E169 AAE
 MAHATHIR-CONTEST
 BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 21⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THERE ARE CONTESTS FOR THE TOP UMNO POSTS BECAUSE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BIG AMBITIONS AND THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH UMNO'S ACHIEVEMENTS, PARTY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS. (P)

IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH MERDEKA, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF UMNO, HE SAYS THE CONTESTS HAD JEOPARDIZED UMNO'S IMAGE.

HE SAYS THE CONTESTS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH UMNO'S ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE PARTY HAD SCORED A MAJOR SUCCESS IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION.

+IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE UMNO LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE NOT GOOD THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR US TO ACHIEVE SUCH A LANDSLIDE VICTORY.+

+BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH BIG AMBITIONS, THERE ARE NOW CONTESTS, JEOPARDISING OUR IMAGE,+ HE SAYS. -- MORE
 1531MST 21 04 87

U E179 AAE
 MAHATHIR-CONTEST 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS +ONE OR TWO PEOPLE+ WITH BIG AMBITIONS ARE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO DISPLAY AN ATTITUDE WHICH THEY DO NOT ACTUALLY HAVE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BEING CHALLENGED BY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER AND GUA MUSANG UMNO DIVISION HEAD TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH FOR THE POST OF PARTY PRESIDENT, FEELS THE CONTEST REPRESENTS NOT ONLY A CHALLENGE TO THE LEADERSHIP BUT ALSO TO UMNO TRADITION.

THE CHALLENGE REQUIRES THE SERIOUS ATTENTION OF EVERY PARTY MEMBER APART FROM THOSE BEING CHALLENGED, HE SAYS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CONTEST BETWEEN FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN AND HAJI SULAIMAN PALESTIN FOR THE TOP PARTY POST IS NOT SIMILAR TO THE CONTEST BETWEEN HIM AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH.

HE FEARS THAT THE EFFECT OF THE CONTEST ON UMNO WILL BE A NEGATIVE ONE.

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1620MST 21 04 87

U E180 AAE
 MAHATHIR-CONTEST 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE FIND THERE ARE TWO FACTIONS WHICH ARE SELDOM COURTEOUS TO AND HARBOUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT ONE ANOTHER. THERE ARE GROUPS WHICH ISOLATE THEMSELVES,+ HE SAYS.

HE ALSO SAYS THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS THAT FOREIGNERS ARE HAVING LESS RESPECT FOR THE MALAYS BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UMNO.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FEARS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MALAY RACE TO BE ON PAR WITH OTHER RACES IN THIS MODERN ERA WILL BE JEOPARDISED IF THIS SITUATION IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

HE ALSO SAYS THE OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IS THAT THE POLICIES ARE BEING TURNED INTO ISSUES TO GET SUPPORT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAYS. -- MORE
 1623MST 21 04 87

U E187 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONTEST 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THE POLICIES HAD SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING THE NATION TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAYS IT IS THE DUTY OF A LEADER TO INSTIL THE SPIRIT OF AWARENESS AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE TRIED TO BRIEF UMNO MEMBERS MORE FREQUENTLY BY VISITING THE VARIOUS STATES,+ HE SAYS.

THE BRIEFINGS WERE NOT ONLY ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES BUT ALSO INCLUDED ANALYSIS ON THE REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF CERTAIN POLICIES AND METHODS OF OVERCOMING THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAYS HIS VISION IS TO PLACE MALAYSIA ON PAR WITH DEVELOPED NATIONS. -- MORE
1640MST 21 04 87

D369

U E202 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONTEST 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+THESE ARE NOT AIMS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECOMING DEVELOPED OR SEMI-DEVELOPED NATIONS AND WE HAVE THE SAME POTENTIAL AND CAPABILITIES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT, HE SAYS, IS THAT THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE SHOULD HAVE A DEFINITE DIRECTION WITHOUT ANY OBSTACLES.

SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN MALAYSIA ARE CLEAR TO EVERYONE, HE SAYS.

+FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TOTALLING \$4.5 BILLION HAVE COME IN TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE STOCK MARKET AND THE VALUE OF SHARES HAS RISEN MARKEDLY,+ HE SAID.

HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO RECOVER PROVIDED THE WORLD ECONOMY DOES NOT COME UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE. --
BERNAMA

1732MST 21 04 87