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MAHATHIR-POWER

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 23<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS DESCRIBED THE CONTEST IN UMNO THIS TIME AS AN ATTEMPT BY ONE GROUP TO SEIZE POWER. (P)

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THERE WAS A GROUP WHICH WANTED TO SEIZE POWER AND THE LEADERSHIP OF UMNO, THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD BECOME THE FOCUS OF PUBLIC ATTENTION.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER AT THE HILTON HOTEL HERE LAST NIGHT, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THE DELEGATES HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DETERMINING THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

HE SAID THE DELEGATES SHOULD MAKE THEIR CHOICE BASED ON THE +TEAM+ AS COMPATIBILITY IN THE +TEAM+ WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE LEADERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

+THERE IS NO USE IN MAKING A MIXED SELECTION MERELY TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO ONE PARTICULAR GROUP AS THIS WILL JEAPORDISE UNITY AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

+I MYSELF DO NOT LIKE TO ALIGNED TO A GROUP OR BE FACTIONAL BUT IN THE INTEREST OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVENMENT WE HAVE TO DO THIS,+ HE SAID.

MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS TO TOMORROW'S UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS WELL AS SUPPORTERS ATTENDED THE DINNER. -- BERNAMA

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