

0330

B E018 AAE  
UMNO-MAHATHIR R R R R R R

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 26<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THIS EVENING LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT THE YARDSTICK BY WHICH HE SELECTS MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

THE CRITERIA APPLIED WAS THE CAPABILITY OF THE CANDIDATE AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO ADHERE TO TWO OATHS UPON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET.

THE TWO ARE THE +OATH OF SECRECY+ AND +OATH OF OFFICE AND LOYALTY TO THE NATION AND CONSTITUTION.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THIS WHEN WINDING UP THE DEBATE IN THE THREE-DAY 38TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH ENDS TODAY.

APART FROM THE TWO CONDITIONS, WHAT HE EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET WAS THEIR HONOURING THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER READ OUT TO THE ASSEMBLY THE WORDINGS OF THE TWO OATHS TO SHOW THAT THE QUESTION OF LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER NEVER FIGURED IN HIS CHOICE OF MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. -- MORE  
1848MST 26 04 87

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B E022 AAE  
UMNO-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R

UNDER THE OATH OF SECRECY, A CABINET MEMBER SOLEMNLY SWEARS (FOR MUSLIMS) OR PLEDGES (FOR NON-MUSLIMS) NOT TO DIVULGE TO ANYBODY ANY MATTER DISCUSSED BY THE CABINET, EXCEPT WITH THE SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG.

UNDER THE OATH OF OFFICE AND LOYALTY, A CABINET MEMBER SWEARS/PLEDGES TO EARNESTLY DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES WITH SINCERITY, LOYALTY TO MALAYSIA AND TO PROTECT AS WELL AS DEFEND THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID +THE TWO OATHS NEVER MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER.+

HE DID NOT MAKE LOYALTY TO HIM A PREREQUISITE, +ONLY MY CONFIDENCE THAT THE CANDIDATE WILL NOT LEAK SECRETS AND IS LOYAL TO MALAYSIA.+ -- MORE  
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B E028 AAE  
UMNO-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R

HE WAS REPLYING TO SEVERAL STATE UMNO REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF HIS CRITERIA IN SELECTING MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

DURING THE DEBATE, SEVERAL DELEGATES HAD REFERRED TO HIS BOOK +THE MALAY DILEMMA+ IN WHICH HE WAS SAID TO HAVE CRITICISED THE COUNTRY'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN FOR APPOINTING TO HIS CABINET ONLY THOSE PEOPLE LOYAL TO HIM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS SELECTION WAS BASED ON THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE AND NOT PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

HE HAD A SPECIFIC STAND IN THE MATTER OF FORMATION OF THE CABINET.

+WE MUST HAVE REGULATIONS FOR THE WORK. THE QUESTION OF LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT ARISE.+

ON CONCERN AMONG SEVERAL DELEGATES THAT THE LOSING FACTION IN FRIDAY'S SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY BE VICTIMISED, HE SAID ANY PERSON TAKING PART IN THE CONTEST MUST KNOW THE RISKS INVOLVED.

+IF WE WIN, WE GET SOMETHING, AND IF WE LOSE, WE LOSE SOMETHING,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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