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B E616 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH
BM

SUBANG, JUNE 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO RETURNED HOME FROM VIENNA TODAY AFTER PRESIDING OVER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICDAIT), EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES WILL EMULATE THE WAY IN WHICH THE ELECTION FOR THE ICDAIT PRESIDENCY WAS CONDUCTED.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ELECTED ICDAIT PRESIDENT BY ACCLAMATION FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, THE OTHER CONTENDER FOR THE POST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE STYLE OF ELECTION BASED ON CONSENSUS WHICH WAS PRACTISED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, IF PRACTISED IN MALAYSIA, WOULD ENSURE STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

+LET THIS STYLE OF ELECTION BE PART OF OUR POLITICAL STRUGGLE,+ HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING TO A CROWD OF ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE ON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE.

POLITICS BASED ON CONSENSUS WAS THE BEST WAY TO FORGE UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IN GENERAL AND MALAYSIANS IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID. -- MORE

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B E622 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH 2 SUBANG

+IF THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS IS PRACTISED IN UMNO, MCA, MIC AND GERAKAN, THEN SURELY THERE WILL BE GREATER STABILITY AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES,+ HE SAID.

THE STABILITY WITHIN THE BN WOULD ENSURE NATIONAL STABILITY AND OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE DESCRIBED HIS ELECTION TO THE ICDAIT POST AS A VICTORY FOR MALAYSIA WHICH WAS IN THE FOREFRONT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DADAH ABUSE.

+I AM PROUD BECAUSE MY ELECTION INDIRECTLY HAS MADE MALAYSIA RESPECTED AND RECOGNISED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO HIM BY ALL THE 138 COUNTRIES WHICH ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE PROVED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA WHICH HAD TAKEN FIRM ACTION TO COMBAT THE DADAH MENACE. -- MORE

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B E623 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH 3 SUBANG

HE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE SOME COUNTRIES WHICH WANTED THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF ICDAIT, IN THE END THE OTHER CONTENDER FOR THE POST WITHDREW TO PAVE THE WAY FOR MALAYSIA IN THE SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS.

+IN FACT, THERE WAS ALSO A COUNTRY WHICH OFFERED ITS PLACE FOR THE CONTENDER WHO WITHDREW SO THAT HE TOO CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DADAH,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THE PAST, THERE WERE COUNTRIES WHICH OPPOSED MALAYSIA'S FIRMNESS AGAINST DADAH ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING, LIKE THE IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ON TRAFFICKERS.

+BUT, MY ELECTION AS ICDAIT PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN THAT THEY INDIRECTLY ACCEPT MALAYSIA'S UNCOMPROMISING STAND ON DADAH ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING,+ HE SAID..

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS ELECTION ALSO SHOWED THAT MALAYSIA STILL HAD MANY FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE BIG POWERS. -- MORE

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B E625 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH 4 SUBANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE RECEIVED FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS AND LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE TO ENABLE HIM TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES EFFECTIVELY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LED THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THE 10-DAY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TOH MUDA DR ABDULLAH FADZIL CHE WAN, WERE AMONG THOSE IN THE DELEGATION.

CABINET MINISTERS, LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES AND OTHER DIGNITARIES WERE AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT TO RECEIVE THE PRIME MINISTER. -- BERNAMA

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B E627 AAE
MAHATHIR-RETURN 3 SUBANG R'R'R' (REOPENS ITEM E583)

EARLIER, ENCIK SAMAH HAJI AHMAD, WHO WAS CHOSEN TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL MALAYSIANS, PRAISED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF BEING ELECTED ICTAID PRESIDENT.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S ELECTION AS HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM HAD CARVED A NICHE IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY AND +HAD ENHANCED THE COUNTRY'S POPULARITY.+

ENCIK SAMAH ALSO SAID THAT NO AMOUNT OF SLANDER BY ANTI-NATIONAL ELEMENTS COULD SMEAR THE RECOGNITION BESTOWED UPON THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE COUNTRY BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THE PRAISES SHOWERED ON THE PRIME MINISTER WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SHOUTS OF +HIDUP MAHATHIR+ AND +MAHATHIR WIRA BANGSA+ BY THE CROWD.

-- BERNAMA

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