

MAHATHIR

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(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 11⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THE SUCCESS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS MADE UP OF PARTIES THAT ARE MODERATE IN THEIR STAND AND GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AND CONSENSUS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE COALITION GAVE PRIORITY TO CONSENSUS, TOLERANCE AND THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AMONG COMPONENT PARTIES IN EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ALL MATTERS, THE BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE MCA'S 35TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, HE SAID OTHER PARTIES WOULD PROBABLY NOT SUCCEED IN RULING A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA BECAUSE THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN CONFLICT RATHER THAN CONSENSUS.

HE SAID THAT RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN NEWS REPORTS OF DIFFERING OPINIONS AMONG BN COMPONENT PARTIES, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER IN AGREEMENT.

+HOWEVER, WHAT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ATTENTION IS THE SUCCESS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN OVERCOMING THE PROBLEM IN THE END. THE ASSUMPTION OF OTHER PEOPLE THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAS BECOME WEAK IS JUST THEIR DREAM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

NEVERTHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT OF LATE THE PRINCIPLES OF TOLERANCE AND COOPERATION APPEARED TO HAVE COME UNDER SIEGE BECAUSE CERTAIN QUARTERS HAD PUT ASIDE THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS.

THERE WERE QUARTERS AMONG THE COMPONENT PARTIES WHICH FREQUENTLY AND VEHEMENTLY SPOKE OUT ON CERTAIN ISSUES WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE MATTER RAISED AND THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THEIR HASTY ACTION, HE SAID.

+I FEEL THAT IF THERE IS ANY DISSATISFACTION ON ANY MATTER, THE BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES SHOULD USE THE CHANNELS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COALITION (TO SEEK A SOLUTION),+ SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ADVISED THE COMPONENT PARTIES TO ALWAYS PRACTISE MODERATION AND TO BE RATIONAL IN FURTHERING THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES TO AVOID BEING BRANDED EXTREME.

MALAYSIANS, ESPECIALLY THE LEADERS, SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DOING OR SAYING ANYTHING THAT COULD JEOPARDISE THE RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMY, HE SAID. -- MORE

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ATTENTION EDITORS: URGENT CORRECTION DUE TO WORD DROPPED IN FOURTH PARA. HERE CORRECTED REPETITION:

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (CORRECTED REPETITION)

+SOMETIMES I FEEL THAT WE MALAYSIANS ARE OUR WORST ENEMIES. WE STRIKE OUT FIRST AT ANY PROGRAMME WHICH WE IMPLEMENT FOR OUR OWN GOOD TO THE EXTENT THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE NO FAITH IN OUR ABILITY,+ HE SAID.

MALAYSIA HAD THE FACILITIES TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE BUT COULD NOT MEET THOSE OF THE GREEDY, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ONE OF THE POLITICAL PHENOMENA TO WATCH OUT FOR WAS THE SWITCHING OF PARTY ALLEGIANCE AMONG ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE WITH THEIR PARTIES SHOULD VACATE THEIR SEATS AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BUT IT WAS BECOMING CLEAR THAT SOME SWITCHED LOYALTY FOR MONETARY REWARDS, HE SAID.

HE WARNED THAT LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST ANY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE DOING THIS. -- MORE (ENDS CORRECTED REPETITION)

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MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+MONEY POLITICS CANNOT BE ALLOWED IN THIS COUNTRY. IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE BOUGHT, THEN NOT ONLY WILL DEMOCRACY BE MEANINGLESS BUT THE COUNTRY WILL ALSO PROBABLY BE LOOTED BY THE RICH AND, WORSE STILL, BY FOREIGN POWERS.

+THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF ANY ATTEMPT TO TOPPLE IT WITH THE USE OF MONEY,+ HE ADDED.

AMONG THE BN COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS PRESENT WAS MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S.SAMY VELLU. FORMER MCA PRESIDENT TUN TAN SIEW SIN WAS ALSO PRESENT. -- BERNAMA

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