

D785

B E086 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO R'R'R'  
BM

ALOR GAJAH, AUG 13<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE COURT ACTION BY A GROUP OF UMNO MEMBERS CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN APRIL WILL WEAKEN THE PARTY. (P)

ALTHOUGH THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO FILE A SUIT, THEIR ACTION WOULD BE TO THE LOSS OF THE PARTY BECAUSE IT HAD IN EFFECT TRANSFERRED FROM THE MEMBERS TO THE COURT THE POWER TO DETERMINE WHO SHOULD LEAD UMNO, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THEIR ACTION ALSO TRANSFERRED TO THE COURT THE POWER OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE PARTY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID WHEN OPENING THE ALOR GAJAH UMNO DIVISION BUILDING HERE.

A GROUP OF UMNO MEMBERS HAVE FILED A SUIT IN THE HIGH COURT IN KUALA LUMPUR SEEKING A DECLARATION THAT THE APRIL UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DURING WHICH ALL KEY UMNO POSTS WERE CONTESTED, WAS NULL AND VOID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE PARTY WAS FACING THE THREAT OF INTERNAL DIVISIVENESS WHICH HE WARNED COULD RESULT IN UMNO LOSING ITS POWER.

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+ALL THESE ARE HAPPENING BECAUSE UMNO MEMBERS HAVE FORGOTTEN THE PARTY' MAIN OBJECTIVES AND THE BASIS OF UMNO'S STRENGTH AS WELL AS ITS SUCCESSES SO FAR,+ HE SAID.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS COMMENTING ON THE COURT ACTION BY THE GROUP OF 12 UMNO MEMBERS.

HE SAID SOME MEMBERS COMPLACENT WITH THE PARTY'S SUCCESSES HAD FORGOTTEN THAT AS MEMBERS OF A POLITICAL PARTY, THEY SHOULD STRUGGLE FOR THE CAUSE OF THE PARTY AND RACE AND THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

THEY NO LONGER HELD TO THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT OF UNITY OR ADHERED TO PARTY DISCIPLINE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITH THE PARTY ELECTIONS OVER, MEMBERS SHOULD CLOSE RANKS AND CONCENTRATE ON STRUGGLING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE PEOPLE SAYING THERE ARE NOW TWO UMNO PARTIES, ONE WHICH GOT 49 PERCENT OF THE VOTES AND THE OTHER WHICH GOT 51 PERCENT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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B E094 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 ALOR GAJAH R'R'R'

HE SAID CERTAIN QUARTERS IN THE PARTY WERE CONTINUING WITH EFFORTS TO KEEP ALIVE THE DISUNITY THAT HAD OCCURRED DURING THE APRIL UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS BECAUSE ANOTHER ELECTION WAS COMING.

(THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED NEXT YEAR).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED SOME MEMBERS DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE FATE OF UMNO AND THE WEAKNESS IT WOULD SUFFER IF THERE WAS DISUNITY IN THE PARTY.

+UMNO IS STRONG NOT BECAUSE IT HAS WEAPONS OR ITS OWN ARMY. IT IS RESPECTED BECAUSE OF THE UNITY AND DISCIPLINE OF THE 1.4 MILLION MEMBERS. NOW THIS IS BEING FORGOTTEN.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THOSE WHO TOOK COURT ACTION AGAINST THE PARTY DID NOT LOVE THE PARTY FOR IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD HAVE RESORTED TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE PARTY CONSTITUTION TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS.

+I AM NOT TRYING TO DENY THEM THEIR RIGHT, BUT I FEEL SAD THAT THEY EXHIBIT NOT THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF THE UMNO SPIRIT AND CONCERN FOR WHAT WILL BEFALL THE PARTY,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 ALOR GAJAH R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER HELD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH MELAKA BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AND UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE ALOR GAJAH UMNO BUILDING.

PRESENT WAS CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK.  
-- BERNAMA  
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