

B E438 AAE
MAHATHIR-LIBERAL
BM

SUBANG, AUG 29 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY THE PRESENT LIBERAL POLICY PRACTISED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A +LICENCE+ OR +PERMIT+ FOR ANY QUARTER TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO THE EXTENT OF THREATENING NATIONAL STABILITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CONTINUE ITS LIBERAL POLICY BUT HAD TO ENSURE THIS LIBERALISM WAS NOT MISINTERPRETED AND THE FREEDOM ALLOWED NOT MISUSED.

OPENING THE 35TH MIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, HE SAID IF NATIONAL STABILITY WAS THREATENED, EFFORTS TO RESTORE STABILITY WOULD THEN HAVE TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER EFFORTS TO PURSUE THIS LIBERAL POLICY.

HE SAID THE THINKING BY SOME GROUPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WEAK AND COULD BE EASILY MANIPULATED HAD RESULTED IN MANY PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FREEDOM GIVEN TO RAISE SENSITIVE ISSUES. IN FACT THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WAS REPEATEDLY +VIOLATED+ WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT TAKING ANY ACTION.

IF THE PEOPLE VALUED LIBERALISM, THEY SHOULD HAVE AN APPRECIATION OF THE FREEDOM GIVEN THEM, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1455MST 29 08 87

D595

B E439 AAE
MAHATHIR-LIBERAL 2 SUBANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MANY PEOPLE WERE SMART IN AVOIDING CHARGES OF INFRINGING THE LAWS BUT WORSE WERE THOSE WHO COULD CLEVERLY USE THE LAWS TO AVOID FACING LEGAL ACTION.

THERE WERE THOSE DEMANDING THE +RULE OF LAW+ IN THIS COUNTRY BUT THESE VERY SAME PEOPLE WERE THE ONES FRUSTRATING THE RULE OF LAW BY MANIPULATING THE LAW ITSELF, HE SAID.

ON UNITY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD OBSERVED THAT THE SITUATION OF LATE HAD CHANGED AFTER CERTAIN BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS SHOWED A PENCHANT FOR ACTING AS +HEROES+ TO GET SUPPORT FROM PARTY MEMBERS AND CERTAIN GROUPS FOR PERSONAL GAIN WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE EFFECTS ON THE BN AND THE COUNTRY.

+IN A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY WITH A COALITION GOVERNMENT LIKE THE BN, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BECOME A COMMUNAL HERO IF THIS ADVERSELY AFFECTS OUR IMAGE AS A LEADER OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

+IN SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF OUR OWN RACE, WE SHOULD NOT BE EASILY PROVOKED BY PETTY ISSUES.+ -- MORE
1505MST 29 08 87

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B E451 AAE
MAHATHIR-LIBERAL 3 SUBANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MINOR MATTERS TO BE RAISED SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS IN THE BN WITHOUT ANY FANFARE.

HE SAID AMONG THE CAUSES FOR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE PARITY AMONG THE RACES WAS OBSESSION OF SOME LEADERS WITH +EMPTY SYMBOLS,+ THEIR TIME AND EFFORT WERE WASTED WITH CHAMPIONING OF DELIBERATELY MANUFACTURED SYMBOLISMS WHILE THE REAL ISSUE AT STAKE WAS NOT GIVEN ATTENTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANY PROBLEM FACING BN LEADERS OR THE VARIOUS RACES IN THE COUNTRY COULD BE RESOLVED WITH PATIENCE AND IN A WAY THAT DID NOT AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.

ALL QUARTERS MUST REMEMBER THE BEST SOLUTION WAS ONE THAT DID NOT TOTALLY ACQUIESCE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE SIDE BRINGING UP THE ISSUE (A COMPROMISE).

HE ALSO SAID ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN TASKS TODAY WAS TO REHABILITATE AND DEVELOP THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND TO ATTAIN THIS OBJECTIVE, POLITICAL STABILITY MUST BE MAINTAINED IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

1634MST 29 08 87

D628

B E453 AAE
MAHATHIR-LIBERAL 4 SUBANG

HOWEVER, SOME QUARTERS TRIED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT WAS IN THE MIDST OF EFFORTS TO FOSTER POLITICAL STABILITY AND IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

THESE GROUPS HAD FORGOTTEN THAT DESPITE THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS PLAGUING THE COUNTRY LAST YEAR, THE BN HAD MANAGED TO REMAIN IN POWER.

HE SAID THE BN COULD NOT BE EASILY DEFEATED BY THE TACTIC OF DISPARAGING THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HE ADDED DID NOT WANT TO SEE DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY DESTROYED AND REPLACED BY AN OLIGARCHY. --
BERNAMA

1635MST 29 08 87