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U E502 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO R R R
BM

KOTA BAHARU, OCT 2 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DISMISSED TODAY THE VIEW THAT UMNO HAS BROKEN UP FOLLOWING THE PARTY'S ELECTION IN APRIL BUT AGREED THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN OPINIONS AMONG THE MEMBERS IN SEVERAL MATTERS.

+IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL THE 1.4 MILLION MEMBERS TO HAVE ONLY ONE OPINION,+ THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID AT THE WELCOMING RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL AT THE SULTAN ISMAIL PETRA AIRPORT TO BEGIN A TWO-DAY VISIT TO KELANTAN.

HE SAID THAT UMNO WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE IN AN UNHEALTHY STATE AND THAT ITS MEMBERS HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.

DESCRIBING THIS AS A MISCONCEPTION, HE SAID: +ONLY OUR ENEMIES ARE SAYING THAT FOLLOWING THE ELECTION UMNO HAS BECOME DIVIDED AND NO LONGER CAPABLE.+

IN THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI MAHATHIR DEFEATED FORMER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH FOR THE PRESIDENCY BY 43 VOTES. -- MORE

1213MST 02 10 87

U E503 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KOTA BAHARU RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT GENERALLY UMNO MEMBERS HAD SHOWN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY.

+THE QUESTION OF WHO IS THE LEADER IS ANOTHER MATTER,+ HE SAID.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, WAS THAT THE MEMBERS SHOULD PRESERVE THEIR SOLIDARITY AS THIS WAS THE +WEAPON+ TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE RACE, RELIGION AND NATION.

ON DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AMONG PARTY MEMBERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS NORMAL IN AN ORGANISATION AS BIG AS UMNO, ADDING: +HUSBANDS AND WIVES ALSO HAVE VIEWS WHICH DIFFER.+

+HOWEVER, SUCH DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT INFLUENCE OUR ACTIONS BECAUSE WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO HAVE AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF UNITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1228MST 02 10 87

U E504 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KOTA BAHARU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF THERE OCCURRED A SITUATION WHERE PARTY MEMBERS HAD DIFFERING VIEWS ON A CERTAIN MATTER, THEY SHOULD FIND A POINT ON WHICH WOULD BECOME THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS.

THEY SHOULD ALSO ACCEPT ANY DECISION REACHED THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, HE ADDED.

+IF WE ISOLATE OURSELVES BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO ATTAIN OUR OBJECTIVES, IT WILL NOT RESULT IN VICTORY BUT A SPLIT WHICH WILL WEAKEN US AND IN THE END CAUSE POWER TO SLIP FROM OUR HANDS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT BEFORE SUCH A SITUATION AROSE, ALL PROBLEMS OR MISUNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE PARTY NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED AMICABLY.

HE HOPED THAT ANY DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AMONG THE MEMBERS WOULD NOT SWAY THEM IN THEIR ACTIONS. -- MORE

1239MST 02 10 87

0740

U E507 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KOTA BAHARU

HE SAID THE UNITY AMONG UMNO MEMBERS, AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL, IN KELANTAN HAD RESULTED IN A BIG SUCCESS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION LAST YEAR.

+THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID THAT WE WOULD WIN BETWEEN 17 AND 19 SEATS ONLY BUT BECAUSE OF OUR SOLIDARITY THE BN HAD WON 29 (OF THE 39 STATE SEATS),+ HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE PEOPLE HAD REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG THEM AND WANTED PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

+FROM UNITY COMES STRENGTH AND FROM STRENGTH COMES PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE FLOODS WHICH KELANTAN OFTEN EXPERIENCED DURING THE MONSOON PERIOD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM.

HE SAID THAT EACH YEAR THE GOVERNMENT MADE EARLY PREPARATIONS TO FACE THE FLOODS.

TOMORROW, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL VISIT KAMPUNG KEMASIN IN BACUK DISTRICT, ONE OF THE FLOOD-PRONE AREAS. -- BERNAMA
1303MST 02 10 87