

0385

U E285 AAE

MAHATHIR

BM

88 P
KUALA TERENGGANU, JUNE 23 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT UMNO BARU SHOULD RECRUIT MORE FORMER UMNO MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONALS AS PART OF EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY.

ONLY THROUGH THIS WAY COULD THE PARTY ENSURE THE WELFARE AND INTEREST OF THE MALAYS, HE SAID AFTER A MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF VILLAGE AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES IN TERENGGANU AT STADIUM NEGERI HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO BARU PRESIDENT, SAID THE PARTY AT PRESENT HAD ONLY POLITICAL POWER.

+IF THIS POWER IS LOST, THE MALAYS WILL LOSE AND THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY BY POOLING OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT IT COULD PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE MALAYS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE MALAYS SHOULD BE UNITED TO GRAB THE OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION. -- MORE
2018MST 23 06 88

U E287 AAE

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

HE SAID THAT THE PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES, LIKE PALM OIL AND RUBBER, HAD SHOT UP TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE WERE GROUPS TRYING TO SMEAR THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY AND GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS SOLELY BECAUSE THEY DISLIKED THE EXISTING LEADERSHIP.

THESE GROUPS, HE SAID, EVEN TOLD BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT MALAYSIA WAS RULED BY A DICTATOR AND THAT IT WAS A POLICE STATE.

THIS FRIGHTENED FOREIGN INVESTORS WHO IN THE PAST HAD INDICATED THEIR INTEREST IN INVESTING THEIR MONEY IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT AND UMNO LEADERS ALWAYS PRACTISED DEMOCRACY THE PRINCIPLES OF WHICH RESPECTED THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY. -- MORE
2027MST 23 06 88

0398

U E291 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY HAD PRACTISED DEMOCRACY FOR A LONG TIME, THERE WERE STILL GROUPS NOT PREPARED TO RESPECT THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE ACTION BY THE +GROUP OF 11+ WHICH TOOK UMNO TO COURT RESULTING IN THE PARTY BEING DECLARED UNLAWFUL CLEARLY SHOWED THAT IT DID NOT RESPECT THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY AT LAST YEAR'S UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WERE BEHIND THE GROUP WHICH WAS NOW CLAIMING THAT THE HOME MINISTER DID NOT USE HIS POWERS TO EXEMPT UMNO FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOCIETIES ACT WHEN THE PARTY WAS DECLARED UNLAWFUL BY THE COURT.

THE GROUP WAS NOW CLAIMING THAT IT DID NOT +KILL+ UMNO AND IT WAS BLAMING OTHERS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GROUP WANTED TO REVIVE THE OLD UMNO AND THAT EFFORTS WERE ALSO MADE TO TABLE A MOTION IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIVE THE PARTY. -- MORE
2042MST 23 06 88

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U E292 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA TERENGGANU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GROUP'S EFFORTS WOULD BE FRUITLESS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE POWERS TO REVIVE UMNO WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN DECLARED UNLAWFUL.

HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY COMMITTEES TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE POLITICAL SITUATION AND NOT BE INFLUENCED BY PROPAGANDA SPREAD BY THE GROUP.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD BE WARY OF THE ACTIONS OF THE GROUP WHICH HE ADDED WAS EVEN WILLING TO USE MONEY TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES.

ALSO PRESENT WAS MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR AND DEPUTY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK ALIAS ALI.

ABOUT 10,000 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING VILLAGE HEADS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE, ATTENDED THE MEETING. -- BERNAMA
2051MST 23 06 88