

U E347 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO  
BM

KUALA TERENGGANU, JUNE 24 (BERNAMA)

-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS NO CLEAR PROOF TO SHOW THAT THE ORIGINAL UMNO HAD 1.4 MILLION MEMBERS AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NUMBER COULD BE LESS.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THERE WERE DIVISIONS OF THE OLD PARTY WHICH DID NOT SUBMIT ACCURATE REPORTS ON MEMBERSHIP TO THE PARTY HIGHER-UPS BEFORE THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGAN.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE SULTAN MAHMUD AIRPORT BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR, HE SAID THE DIVISIONS APPARENTLY DID NOT SUBMIT THE REPORTS SO AS TO QUALIFY THEM TO SEND DELEGATES TO THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID THE MATTER WAS LOOKED INTO AND WAS FOUND THAT IT HAD OCCURRED SINCE THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1982 AND 1984.

HE SAID UNDER THE OLD PARTY SYSTEM ONLY DIVISIONS WITH 5,000 MEMBERS OR MORE WERE QUALIFIED TO SEND 11 PEOPLE TO REPRESENT THE DIVISIONS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, DIVISIONS WITH FEWER MEMBERS HAD SUBMITTED INACCURATE REPORTS TO THE PARTY HIGHER-UPS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SEND DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. -- MORE  
1208MST 24 06 88

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF UMNO HAD SECURED 700,000 MEMBERS, THIS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS GOOD BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE OLD UMNO CLAIMED TO BE AT 1.4 MILLION WAS INACCURATE.

HE SAID UMNO NEEDED 700,000 MEMBERS CONSIDERING THAT THIS TOTAL WAS LIKELY TO BE MORE THAN THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE OLD UMNO.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THROUGH THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION EXERCISE, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF UMNO MEMBERS COULD BE ASCERTAINED.

HE SAID THE EXERCISE WAS BEING CONDUCTED AT A BRISK PACE AND MANY WERE APPLYING TO BECOME MEMBERS.

HOWEVER THE APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD TAKE TIME BECAUSE APPROVAL WAS ONLY GIVEN BY THE PARTY SUPREME COUNCIL AND NO LONGER AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL LIKE BEFORE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO DRAW MORE PROFESSIONALS AND INTELLECTUALS INTO THE PARTY THROUGH INFORMATION BRIEFINGS SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE UMNO MACHINERY. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PARTY DID NOT PROVIDE ANY INCENTIVE FOR SUCH PEOPLE IF THEY WISHED TO JOIN UMNO.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE PARTY NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THEM ITS STRUGGLE WHICH WOULD BE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT TO THEM, THE MEMBERS AND THE PARTY ITSELF.

THE GOVERNMENT PERMITTED ITS GROUP A STAFF TO JOIN THE PARTY BUT THEY CANNOT HOLD ANY POST, HE SAID.

THOUGH THEY COULD NOT HOLD ANY POST IN THE PARTY, THEY COULD STILL VOICE THEIR VIEWS SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY IN THE FUTURE.

THE PARTY WAS AWARE THAT MANY PROFESSIONALS AND INTELLECTUALS WERE KEEN ON BECOMING MEMBERS AND AS SUCH UMNO WOULD CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO DRAW THEM INTO THE PARTY. -- BERNAMA  
1247MST 24 06 88