

DE471

R AAE

MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY

BM

JITRA, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY DEMOCRACY DOES NOT MEAN FREE LICENCE FOR PEOPLE TO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS BECAUSE IT GIVES PRECEDENCE TO MAJORITY OVER INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY RESORTING TO DEMONSTRATIONS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THIS TO BE THEIR RIGHT UNDER A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

HE WARNED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS HAD LED TO RIOTS IN SOME COUNTRIES AND THREATENED THEIR STABILITY.

ADDRESSING ABOUT 1,500 TEACHERS FROM KUBANG PASU DISTRICT AT A HARI RAYA HAJI GATHERING AT JITRA SECONDARY SCHOOL HERE, HE SAID:

+IN THESE COUNTRIES, THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAS BEEN MADE UNSTABLE BY STUDENTS OFTEN DEMONSTRATING, TO THE EXTENT OF SOME BEING EVEN WILLING TO GET THEMSELVES ON FIRE.+ -- MORE  
2018MST 25 07 88

DE477

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MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 2 JITRA (CORRECTED REPETITION)

DEMOCRACY, HE STRESSED, DID NOT MEAN GIVING INDIVIDUALS THE FREEDOM TO DO WHATEVER THEY PLEASSED WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE REST OF THE SOCIETY.

IN THE WEST FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE PEOPLE INTERPRETING DEMOCRACY AS MEANING THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER THEY LIKED, INCLUDING WALKING AROUND NUDE IN PUBLIC.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE SELECTION OF LEADERS THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE A SUCCESS IF THERE WERE TOO MANY POLITICAL PARTIES IN A COUNTRY.

+A COALITION GOVERNMENT THAT IS WEAK CAN USUALLY BE HELD RANSOM TO THREATS BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO QUIT. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE WEAK, EVEN IF IT WINS IN THE ELECTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM SUCH AS THAT PRACTISED IN THE UNITED STATES HAD ITS SHORTCOMINGS, DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WORRIED ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD DEFECT TO THE OPPOSITION.  
-- MORE (ENDS CORRECTED REPETITION)

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DE473

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MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 3 JITRA

+A GOVERNMENT THAT IS WEAK WILL ALWAYS BE SCARED OF IMPLEMENTING AN UNPOPULAR MEASURE.+

HE SAID THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN MALAYSIA WAS STILL STABLE BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE CHOSE ONLY ONE POLITICAL ORGANISATION, THE BARISAN NASIONAL WHICH HAS 13 COMPONENT PARTIES.

UMNO WHICH WAS STRONG, SUCCESSFUL AND UNITED AS WELL AS THE BACKBONE OF THE BN COULD ENSURE THE BN WAS NOT SPLIT.

+THE WITHDRAWAL OF ANY COMPONENT PARTNER WILL NOT DESTROY THE BN,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, AND KEDAH EDUCATION DIRECTOR HASHIM MYDIN WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. -- BERNAMA

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