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MAHATHIR-UMNO
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JITRA, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY PLACING THEIR CONFIDENCE AT ALL TIMES IN UMNO AS THE PARTY FORMING THE BACKBONE OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION.

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN UMNO WOULD BE ENHANCED TO BECOME PART OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE COUNTRY.

UMNO, HE SAID, WAS THE BIGGEST OF THE 13 COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) AND HAD PROVEN ITS STRENGTH AND MATURITY IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION WHEN IT WON ALL THE SEATS IT CONTESTED.

UMNO HAD ALSO HELPED BN CAPTURE 80 PERCENT OF THE SEATS IN THAT ELECTION, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING ABOUT 1,500 TEACHERS FROM KUBANG PASU DISTRICT AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH JITRA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID IT WAS BETTER IF THE COUNTRY HAD JUST ONE BIG AND STRONG ORGANISATION AS THE GOVERNMENT THAN +300, 500 OR 1,000 WEAK PARTIES.+ -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO IN PURSUING ITS STRUGGLE ALSO TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE MULTIRACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY AND, AS SUCH, BASED THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY ON THE MALAYSIAN PHILOSOPHY AND NOT ANY IDEOLOGY SUCH AS COMMUNISM OR SOCIALISM.

UMNO'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE MALAYS WERE ALSO UNDERSTOOD BY ALL COMMUNITIES.

+ONLY THOSE HAVING STRONG RACIALIST TENDENCIES WILL OPPOSE THESE EFFORTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE MOVE TO RAISE THE MALAYS' ECONOMIC STANDING WAS NOT EFFECTED BY +SEIZING+ THE RIGHTS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES BUT BY ENLARGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CAKE SO ALL COULD SHARE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID

HE SAID THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE BY UMNO BEFORE HAD NOW UNDERGONE +SOME EROSION+ AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN QUARTERS BEING INFLUENCED MORE BY +AMBITIONS THAN SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.+ -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS THEIR STRUGGLE SHOULD BE FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUALS OR EVEN THE PARTY PRESIDENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND STATE EDUCATION DIRECTOR HASHIM MYDIN WERE PRESENT. -- BERNAMA

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