

D628

B E111 AAE
MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE
BM

88
C
JOHOR BAHRU, FEB 3 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASKED THE PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE WISELY AND NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED BY QUARTERS OUT TO FISH FOR VOTES. HE REMINDED THEM TO EXERCISE THEIR POWER TO CHOOSE THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN A JUST AND RATIONAL MANNER.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER ABUSE THIS POWER FOR THE PURPOSE OF +TAKING REVENGE+ ON THE GOVERNMENT AT THE POLLS AFTER THEIR WRATH AND IRE HAD BEEN IGNITED BY QUARTERS CLAIMING THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT FULFIL THEIR DEMANDS, HE ADDED.

OPENING A 16-STOREY BLOCK OF FLATS AT BUKIT CHAGAR HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SLOW IN MEETING REQUESTS AND ADDRESSING ITSELF TO PROBLEMS, THIS WAS BECAUSE IT HAD THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO LOOK AFTER.

+BUT BETTER THIS THAN NOT GETTING THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES AT ALL,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
2053MST 03 03 88

MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE 2 JOHOR BAHRU

HE ALSO ASKED THE PEOPLE TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE PURPOSE OF HAVING ELECTIONS TO SELECT THOSE WHO COULD SERVE THEM AND RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

IT WAS USELESS CHOOSING AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE WHO COULD ONLY TALK BUT NOT DELIVER THE GOODS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS, HE SAID.

THE BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATE, DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YUNOS SULAIMAN, ON THE OTHER HAND WAS A GOVERNMENT PARTY CANDIDATE WHO COULD SERVE THE CONSTITUENCY AND BRING UP PROBLEMS TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. POLLING FOR THE SEAT IS THIS SATURDAY.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TREAT LIGHTLY WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE FOR THEM AND SHOULD INSTEAD BE THANKFUL FOR THE FACILITIES THEY ENJOYED SO THAT +GOD WILLING,+ MORE FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FUTURE.+

HE REMINDED THEM TO BE PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS, SAYING NO ONE IN THE WORLD WAS FREE FROM PROBLEMS. -- MORE
2119MST 03 03 88

D652

B E119 AAE
MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE 3 JOHOR BAHRU

+WE MUST BE PATIENT AND NOT BE ANGRY AT OTHERS JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

+WE OURSELVES CAN OVERCOME THEM OR STRIVE TO AVOID HAVING THE PROBLEM BY ENSURING IT DOES NOT ARISE IN THE FIRST PLACE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REITERATED THE ASSURANCE THAT THE COUNTRY'S TOP LEADERSHIP WAS LEGAL IN ITS STANDING.

+IF THE COURT SAID WE WERE UNLAWFUL, WE RESTORE OUR LEGALITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESSES OF THE LAW,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO ASSURED THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS A BN GOVERNMENT, ALL PEOPLE WILL ENJOY HAPPINESS AND GET FAIR AND JUST TREATMENT. HE REFUTED CLAIMS THAT OPPRESSION EXISTED IN THE COUNTRY AND THERE WAS NO DEMOCRACY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER SAID THE ALLEGATIONS WERE BASELESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE +SUBSTANTIAL+ NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS APPLYING TO LIVE HERE. THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO STAY IN MALAYSIA IF SUCH ALLEGATIONS WERE TRUE.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT IN CONSIDERING THEIR APPLICATIONS HAD TO BE GUIDED BY THE INTERESTS OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY. -- MORE
2139MST 03 03 88

D659

B E125 AAE
MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE 4 JOHOR BAHRU

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED DATUK MOHAMED YUNOS AS A +VETERAN+ WHO HAD BEEN A RESPECTED STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR GELANG PATAH AND TANJUNG PUTERI BEFORE, AND COULD SERVE TANJUNG PUTERI RESIDENTS EFFECTIVELY.

ON HOUSING, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE LOW INCOME GROUP, DESIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN HOUSE OR AT LEAST RENT IT.

+THIS IS WHY WE BUILD FLATS EQUIPPED WITH BASIC AMENITIES BUT SUCH ACCOMMODATION HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

+EVERYONE SHOULD MAKE THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND ACCEPT AND FACE THEM WITH PATIENCE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FLAT DWELLERS, HANDED TO HIM BY FORMER BUKIT CAGAR FLATS UMNO BRANCH HEAD JAFFAR HUSSIN. -- MORE

2153MST 03 03 88

D662

B E129 AAE
MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE 5 JOHOR BAHRU

HE LATER VISITED THE FLATS ACCOMPANIED BY MENTERI BESAR HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN AND SENIOR STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR EARLIER DID NOT DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PEOPLE WHO TURNED OUT TO GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER A ROUSING WELCOME AT THE FLATS, COMPLETE WITH KOMPANG, BUNGA MANGGAR AND LION DANCE GROUPS AND TRADITIONAL INDIAN FLUTE MUSIC.

AMONG THE 30,000-ODD PEOPLE PRESENT WERE HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK NAPSIAH OMAR, DEPUTY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DATUK S.SUBRAMANIAM, DEPUTY PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER HAJI DAUD TAHA AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS. -- BERNAMA

2158MST 03 03 88

D664

B E141 AAE
MAHATHIR-FRANCHISE 5 JOHOR BAHRU (URGENT CORRECTED REPETITION)

HE LATER VISITED THE FLATS ACCOMPANIED BY MENTERI BESAR HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN AND SENIOR STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR EARLIER DID NOT DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PEOPLE WHO TURNED OUT TO GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER A ROUSING WELCOME AT THE FLATS, COMPLETE WITH KOMPANG, BUNGA MANGGAR AND LION DANCE GROUPS AND TRADITIONAL INDIAN FLUTE MUSIC.

AMONG THE 3,000-ODD PEOPLE PRESENT WERE HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK NAPSIAH OMAR, DEPUTY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DATUK S.SUBRAMANIAM, DEPUTY PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER HAJI DAUD TAHA AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS. -- BERNAMA

2242MST 03 03 88