

0668

B E102 AAE
MAHATHIR
BM

28 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 14 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL USE ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO ENSURE THE PROBLEM FACED BY UMNO IS RESOLVED.

HE HOPED ALL QUARTERS REMAINED CALM AND CONTINUE TO PLACE THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH THE EFFORTS UNTIL THEY ACHIEVE SUCCESS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, STATE ASSEMBLYMEN AND ALSO SENATORS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

HE SAID LAWS WERE MADE NOT TO CREATE PROBLEMS BUT TO SECURE THE WELLBEING AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

+GOD'S LAWS ALONE CANNOT BE CHANGED, NOT MAN-MADE LAWS,+ HE SAID TO CHEERS AND APPLAUSE FROM THOSE PRESENT.

+GOD WILLING, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM INCLUDING TAKING THE NECESSARY ACTION IN THE DEWAN (RAKYAT),+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1907MST 14 02 88

0671

B E103 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REFUTED CLAIMS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF UMNO HAD DONE NOTHING SINCE THE FEB 4 COURT RULING OF UMNO BEING AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY.

+IT IS JUST THAT THE LEADERSHIP HAD NOT GONE ROUND PUBLICISING THEIR EFFORTS,+ HE SAID. +WE COULD NOT DO THIS BECAUSE THERE WERE PEOPLE OUT TO DESTROY UMNO AND WAITING ONLY FOR THE RIGHT TIME.+

+THESE PEOPLE WILL RESORT TO ALL KINDS OF MEANS AND CONTINUE TO TRY TO TURN UMNO MEMBERS AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP.

+BE VIGILANT BECAUSE WE ARE SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION AND NOT OUR OWN INTERESTS,+ HE SAID IN HIS 30-MINUTE ADDRESS.

HE URGED FORMER UMNO MEMBERS AT DIVISIONAL AND BRANCH LEVELS TO BE ALERT AS THE GROUP CONCERNED WOULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE LOYALTY OF FORMER MEMBERS. -- MORE

1921MST 14 02 88

0679

B E106 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID TODAY'S GATHERING HAD DEMONSTRATED TO THE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP HAD NOT LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF ANY QUARTER.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED THE STRONG AND SOLID BACKING OF THE PEOPLE TO ENSURE ITS STABILITY, AS OTHERWISE IT WOULD NOT HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE SAID, STRESSING THAT NATIONAL STABILITY HAD DEPENDED ON UMNO BEFORE.

+OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN STABLE BECAUSE OF UMNO (THE LARGEST PARTY), SUPPORTED AND BOLSTERED BY THE STRENGTH OF ITS BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) PARTNERS.+

HE BELIEVES THAT ALTHOUGH UMNO IS THE FOCUS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, THE OTHER BN COMPONENT PARTIES ALSO FEEL THE EFFECTS.

HE SAID HOWEVER: +WE COULD STILL PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS STILL SOLID AND STRONG, DESPITE QUARTERS TRYING TO DISPARAGE THIS GATHERING.+ -- MORE

1935MST 14 02 88

D687

B E109 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE IS CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RACES IN THE COUNTRY CONSIDER UMNO AN ESSENTIAL PARTY, AND REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF IT BEING STRONG AND SOLID TO ENSURE NATIONAL POLITICAL STABILITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST APRIL 24 HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULLY CONCENTRATE ON STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS OF A GROUP TO GET THE ELECTIONS OF CENTRAL OFFICE BEARERS AT THE ASSEMBLY NULLIFIED.

+WE WERE UNABLE TO FULLY DEVOTE OUR ATTENTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF THIS DISTRACTION,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID TODAY'S PROBLEM WAS MAINLY DUE TO A GROUP SETTING ASIDE THE TRADITIONS OF UMNO AND NOT HEEDING HIS ADVICE THAT CERTAIN PARTY POSTS SHOULD NOT BE CONTESTED AT THE ASSEMBLY. -- BERNAMA
1952MST 14 02 88