

U E000 AAE
MAHATHIR-INFORMATION
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 30 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO THE PEOPLE.

THERE HAD BEEN MANY CONFUSING STATEMENTS MADE BY CERTAIN QUARTERS, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER A BRIEFING SESSION WITH INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES AT THE UMNO BUILDING HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO BARU PRESIDENT, SAID AS SUCH, IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE THESE OFFICERS THE CORRECT PICTURE AND IT WAS THEN UP TO THEM TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES EFFECTIVELY IN THIS REGARD.

+WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IS THAT THERE ARE QUARTERS SAYING THE OLD UMNO HAS ONLY BEEN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS WHILE SOME CLAIM THAT BY JOINING UMNO BARU, THEY WILL LOSE \$7,000, THAT IS, THE MONEY BELONGING TO MEMBERS.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT UMNO HEADQUARTERS IN ACTUAL FACT OWED \$300 MILLION AND IF MEMBERS WERE HOPING FOR THE MONEY, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET EVEN ONE SEN BUT ON THE OTHER HAND MIGHT HAVE TO PAY (THE DEBT). -- MORE

2247MST 30 04 88

U E003 AAE
MAHATHIR-INFORMATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE KUALA LUMPUR HIGH COURT'S WRITTEN AND ORAL JUDGMENTS (IN WHICH UMNO WAS RULED AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY) RECENTLY, HE SAID THIS WAS A PHENOMENON THAT HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

+WE HOLD TO WHAT WAS SAID THE FIRST TIME, AND BASED ON THE ORAL JUDGMENT, WE HAD TAKEN (CERTAIN) ACTIONS BUT IT SEEMS AS IF THE JUDGE HAS SECOND THOUGHTS.+

+THIS IS QUITE STRANGE, AND IF THINGS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GO BY THE DECISION OF THE COURT. WE WILL NOT KNOW WHETHER THE DECISION CAN BE RELIED ON OR WILL BE CHANGED LATER,+ HE ADDED.

+OUR LAWYERS ARE STUDYING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DIFFERENCE IN THE VIEWS.+

ON THE SPLIT IN UMNO, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD REMINDED ABOUT THIS MATTER FROM THE OUTSET, BEFORE THE APRIL 24 (1987) PARTY ELECTIONS AND NOW DISUNITY HAD CLEARLY OCCURRED. -- MORE

2321MST 30 04 88

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U E006 AAE
MAHATHIR-INFORMATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

SOME WERE FOLLOWING ONE GROUP WHILE OTHERS WERE SUPPORTING LEADERS ELECTED BY UMNO MEMBERS AND THE EFFORTS TO DIVIDE UMNO WERE STILL CONTINUED BY CERTAIN QUARTERS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT WORRIED BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF UMNO MEMBERS SUPPORTED THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY HIM IN SETTING UP UMNO BARU.

HOWEVER, IN CONSTITUENCIES WHERE UMNO HAD WON WITH SLIM MARGINS, THE ACTIONS OF THIS GROUP MIGHT CAUSE UMNO TO LOSE IF AN ELECTION WAS HELD, HE ADDED.

BY THEIR ACTIONS, THEY APPEARED TO WANT UMNO TO LOSE AND CONCEDE DEFEAT TO PAS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD STILL REMAIN THE UMNO PRESIDENT EVEN IF THE PARTY'S 1984 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OUTCOME WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AS HE WAS THEN STILL CHOSEN THE PARTY PRESIDENT. -- MORE
2359MST 30 04 88

0225

U E007 AAE
MAHATHIR-INFORMATION 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ON REPORTS THAT A CERTAIN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WANTS TO BE AN INDEPENDENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FELT THE PERSON CONCERNED WAS NO LONGER AN UMNO MEMBER.

+AT ONE TIME IN THE PAST, ALL HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PLEDGING NOT TO SWITCH TO ANOTHER PARTY BUT IT SEEMS THIS AGREEMENT NO LONGER HOLDS,+ HE ADDED.

ABOUT 1,500 OFFICERS ATTENDED THE THREE-HOUR BRIEFING. ALSO PRESENT WERE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMAD RAHMAT, OTHER MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE LATER JOINED THOSE PRESENT FOR THE BREAKING OF THE FAST AND PERFORMANCE OF THE MAGHRIB PRAYERS AT THE BUILDING'S SURAU.

HE LATER HAD A LOOK AT THE STAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL QURANIC RECITERS EXAMINATION AND ASSEMBLY IN THE DEWAN MERDEKA. -- BERNAMA
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