

U E745 AAE

MESSAGE-MAHATHIR

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE ON THE NIGHT OF HARI RAYA EVE)

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 16 (BERNAMA) -- THE PEOPLE MUST FURTHER ENHANCE THEIR FAMILY TIES AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG ONE ANOTHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATION'S STABILITY, PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THERE WOULD BE NO HAPPINESS AMONG THE PEOPLE IF THERE WERE NO SUCH FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP TIES, HE SAID IN HIS HARI RAYA MESSAGE OVER RTM TONIGHT.

HE SAID THAT HAVING SUCH TIES BOOSTED THE PEOPLE'S SPIRIT AND FOSTERED FRIENDLINESS AND LOVE THAT WOULD MAKE THEM RESPONSIBLE TO SOCIETY.

WITHOUT STRONG TIES, CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY, THE SOCIETY WOULD FALL APART AND THERE WOULD BE CHAOS, HE SAID.

+THERE WILL BE NO JOYFUL HARI RAYA FOR A NATION THAT IS IN CHAOS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1852MST 16 05 88

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MESSAGE-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ANOTHER GOOD PRACTICE TOWARDS FOSTERING CLOSE RELATIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE WAS THE HOLDING OF OPEN HOUSE WHEREBY THE PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS WOULD VISIT THEIR MUSLIM FRIENDS AND GET BETTER ACQUAINTED.

ON THE ECONOMY, HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THEY WERE CELEBRATING HARI RAYA DURING A TIME WHEN THE ECONOMY HAD RECOVERED SLIGHTLY AND THE PRICES OF THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY COMMODITIES HAD IMPROVED.

MALAYSIA WAS ABLE TO TURN ITS ECONOMY AROUND BECAUSE THE COUNTRY WAS STABLE, HE ADDED.

AS SUCH THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT CRITICISE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

1914MST 16 05 88

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE RACIAL TENSION LAST YEAR WHICH HE SAID COULD HAVE PRECIPITATED AN INCIDENT LIKE THE ONE IN 1969.

TO PREVENT THIS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN STERN ACTION, INCLUDING ARRESTING SEVERAL POLITICAL FIGURES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD STIRRED RACIAL TENSION AND REVOKING THE PUBLICATION PERMITS OF SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITH THE ACTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN RESTORING STABILITY TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE CONFIDENCE OF THE FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE CONDUCIVE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, MALAYSIAN WORKERS MUST NOT BE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS AND SHOULD AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE TROUBLE MAKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF THE PRESENCE OF ELEMENTS AMONG THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WHO WERE OUT TO CREATE DISUNITY AND DISCORD AMONG THEM.

+THERE ARE DIFFERENCES (AMONG THE MUSLIMS) WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO PERSIST, WILL THREATEN THE UNITY OF THE UMMAH,+ HE SAID, AND CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS TO PLEDGE TO WIPE OUT THESE ELEMENTS AND WORK HARD TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE UNITY OF THE UMMAH. -- BERNAMA

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