

0173

B 0073 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO RRR  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 8 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO MEMBERSHIP HAS SO FAR TOPPED THE 931,361 MARK ENABLING THE PARTY TO CLAIM THE RIGHT TO THE ESTATE PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY IT, UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE SAID THE NUMBER COVERED 743,980 REGISTERED BY THE VARIOUS DIVISIONS WHILE THE REMAINING 187,381 WERE SECURED THROUGH THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAMPAIGN OF THE UMNO YOUTH MOVEMENT. ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THE TOTAL REPRESENTED NEW MEMBERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TOTAL WAS MORE THAN HALF THE 1.2 MILLION MEMBERSHIP MARK BEFORE THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 24, 1987.

+WITH THE TOTAL WE HAVE NOW, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLAIM THE ESTATE OWNED BY UMNO BECAUSE OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS MORE THAN EXCEEDED HALF THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP OF UMNO,+ HE SAID WHEN CLOSING THE FIRST LEVEL OF THE SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT OPERATION ORGANISED BY THE UMNO YOUTH MOVEMENT, AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE.

IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD, THE PRIME MINISTER DIRECTED THE UMNO YOUTH MOVEMENT TO CONTINUE WITH SIMILAR OPERATIONS FROM PHASE TWO ONWARDS.  
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2031MST 08 08 88

0182

B 0097 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS PROUD OVER THE EFFORTS MADE BY UMNO YOUTH WHICH SUCCEEDED IN SECURING MANY MEMBERS WITHIN THREE WEEKS THOUGH ORIGINALLY IT PLEDGED ONLY 130,000 MEMBERS.

HE SAID THIS PROVED THAT THE MALAYS PARTICULARLY AT GRASS ROOT LEVEL STILL LOVED UMNO AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR UMNO HAD NEVER ERODED.

+WHAT HAS BROUGHT PROBLEMS IS ONLY PEOPLE SITTING ON TOP BUT THE PEOPLE BELOW HAD NEVER BEEN DISUNITED BUT HAVE ALWAYS LOVED UMNO.+

+BECAUSE OF THIS IT HAS BEEN SO EASY FOR US TO SECURE CLOSE TO A MILLION MEMBERSHIP WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY NOT UMNO MEMBERS BUT WERE NOW INTERESTED IN JOINING UMNO.

+THIS IS A NEW PHENOMENON AND WE CAN BE PROUD OF IT, IT'S LIKELY THEIR INTEREST AROSE AFTER WE HAVE CLEANED UP THE GARBAGE IN UMNO,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2049MST 08 08 88

0172

B E106 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOSE WHO LOVED UMNO BELIEVED THAT IT WAS AN ORGANISATION WHICH COULD ENSURE THAT THE MALAY STRENGTH IN POLITICS WAS PRESERVED.

THEY BELIEVED THAT THEIR SUPPORT WAS IMPORTANT FOR UMNO TO CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO CHAMPION THE FATE AND THE FUTURE OF THE MALAYS.

THEY HAD ALSO NEVER CONSIDERED UMNO AS FAINTED OR DEAD BUT UMNO HAD ALWAYS REMAINED IN THEIR HEARTS EVEN THOUGH THE COURT HAD RULED UMNO AN UNLAWFUL ORGANISATION.

+THIS POLITICAL MATTER CANNOT BE RESOLVED IN COURT BECAUSE IT INVOLVED FEELINGS.+

+THOUGH UMNO IS SAID TO BE UNLAWFUL, UMNO REMAINED IN THEIR HEARTS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TIME HAD NOT COME FOR DISUNITY TO PREVAIL AMONG THE MALAYS THEMSELVES RESULTING IN THEIR MUCH CHERISHED HOPES NOT BEING FULFILLED.-- MORE

2109MST 08 08 88

B E110 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

THERE WAS STILL MUCH WORK YET TO BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT THE MALAYS DID NOT SINK BUT WERE CAPABLE OF COMPETING WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES OR DEVELOPED NATIONS.

IN LINE WITH THIS, HE SAID UMNO WOULD CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TO THE END TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE TRIED TO OBSTRUCT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS OBJECTIVE.

+IF THERE ARE GROUPS WHICH ARE PREPARED TO GO TO COURT FOR THE PURPOSE WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO DO LIKEWISE AND IF THERE ARE GROUPS TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE WE WILL TAKE FIRM ACTION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE UMNO REMAINED A STRONG PARTY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL STABILITY.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FOR UMNO TO BECOME A STRONG ORGANISATION TO CHAMPION THE MALAYS AS A WHOLE AND NOT JUST CERTAIN PEOPLE, HE SAID. -- MORE

2128MST 08 08 88

0204

B E111 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UMNO COULD BE CALLED UMNO THOUGH THERE WERE CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED THAT IT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO AS UMNO BARU.

HE SAID ACCORDING TO THE PARTY CONSTITUTION THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES HAD APPROVED UMNO'S REGISTRATION UNDER THE NAME PERTUBUHAN KEBANGSAAN MELAYU BERSATU (BARU) OR UMNO.

+WITH THAT WE CAN MENTION OUR PARTY'S NAME AS UMNO WITHOUT MENTIONING THE BARU,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER THAN RECEIVED THE MEMBERSHIP FORMS FROM UMNO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES. -- BERNAMA

2134MST 08 08 88