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R E524 AAE  
MAHATHIR-VETERANS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT THE UMNO STRUGGLE SHOULD GO ON EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTRY HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE.

HE SAID THE STRUGGLE HAD NOT ENDED YET AND THERE WERE THINGS WHICH SHOULD BE DONE TO CONTINUE WITH DEVELOPMENT AND RECTIFY THE MISTAKES COMMITTED BY THE BRITISH IN THE PAST.

THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING THE RIGHTS GAINED THROUGH INDEPENDENCE COULD ONLY CONTINUE IF UMNO WAS STRONG AND HAD THE SOLID SUPPORT OF THE MALAYS, HE SAID AT A DINNER FOR ANTI-MALAYAN UNION VETERANS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID AS SUCH THE STRUGGLE ESTABLISHED BY THE VETERANS SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE MALAYS BECAME A DIGNIFIED AND RESPECTED RACE.

HE SAID THAT WHEN UMNO WAS FOUNDED IN 1946, THE MALAYS HAD NO MONEY, STRENGTH AND INTELLECTUALS BUT THROUGH THEIR UNITY THEY MANAGED TO DRIVE THE BRITISH OUT OF THE COUNTRY. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-VETERANS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID SO LONG AS UMNO RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE MALAYS AND REMAINED THE BACKBONE OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE TOGETHER WITH ITS FRIENDS IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO CONTINUE BRINGING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT LIKE WATER SUPPLY, ROADS AND SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THE FUTURE WELLBEING OF THE MALAYS.

+SO TODAY WE HAVE CHILDREN WITH HIGH EDUCATION AND WHO ARE DOCTORS AND LAWYERS AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE UMNO STRUGGLE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS OR INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT BE REALISED IF THERE WERE NO UMNO OR IF UMNO WAS WEAK.

AS SUCH THE UMNO STRUGGLE SHOULD CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE CERTAIN QUARTERS CLAIMING THAT THE MALAYS COULD STRUGGLE THROUGH OTHER PARTIES IF THERE WERE NO UMNO.

THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE ONLY UMNO COULD BRING ABOUT UNITY AMONG ALL THE MALAYS IN THE INTEREST OF THE RACE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR DISTRICT OR STATE.

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R E526 AAE  
MAHATHIR-VETERANS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITH ONE AIM, THAT IS TO DEVELOP THE MALAY RACE AND CHAMPION ITS CAUSE, THE VETERANS HAD GATHERED HERE IN 1946 AND AGREED TO POOL THEIR RESOURCES TO DESTROY THE BRITISH PLAN FOR A MALAYAN UNION.

HE SAID WITH THE UNITY AND BURNING SPIRIT SHOWN BY THE VETERANS, THE BRITISH FINALLY ABANDONED THEIR PLANS TO SEIZE POWER FROM THE MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID AS SUCH HE WAS CONFIDENT THE VETERANS STILL LOVED UMNO AND WOULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THE PARTY BEING DESTROYED BY ANY QUARTERS.

HE SAID THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO CONTINUE WITH THE STRUGGLE AND THERE WAS NO TIME FOR INTERNAL SQUABBLES OVER MATTERS LIKE FIGHTING FOR POSTS.

AT THE FUNCTION, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS STATES HANDED OVER MORE THAN 1,000 FILLED UMNO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR. ABOUT 2,200 VETERANS ATTENDED THE DINNER. --  
BERNAMA

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