

0913

B E269 AAE

MAHATHIR-SEMARAK R R R

BM

88

MELAKA, AUG 21/ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY RAPPORT BETWEEN LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE MUST BE PRESERVED AT ALL TIMES AND NOT JUST DURING ELECTIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID A SOLID RELATIONSHIP WAS VITAL FOR CREATING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE TO FACILITATE THE RESOLVING OF PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PEOPLE.

+FORGOTTEN THEIR ORIGINS+ AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED LEADERS, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE MELAKA STATE-LEVEL SEMARAK (LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT) AT THE BANDAR HILIR LAND RECLAMATION AREA HERE.

+THIS CAMPAIGN (SEMARAK) WILL BRING CLOSER THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE TO JOINTLY RENEW THEIR PLEDGE TO BUILD A MORE PROGRESSIVE NATION THAT IS RESPECTED BY THE WORLD.

+WITHOUT SEMARAK, THE LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE LEADERS WILL BE SEVERED AND LEADERS WILL COME TO MEET THE PEOPLE ONLY DURING ELECTION TIME.+

-- MORE

1513MST 21 08 88

0920

B E270 AAE

MAHATHIR-SEMARAK 2 MELAKA

HE SAID DESPITE THE RACIAL DIVERSITY OF THE POPULATION, A CLOSE LEADER-PEOPLE RELATIONSHIP HAD HELPED THE GOVERNMENT RUN THE COUNTRY WELL SINCE THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GIVE-AND-TAKE ATTITUDE AMONG THE VARIOUS RACES HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE RAPID PACE OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, COMPARED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH A RACIALLY HETEROGENOUS SOCIETY, AND COUNTRIES THAT HAD GAINED INDEPENDENCE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THIS COUNTRY.

+ALTHOUGH WE DID FACE SOME COMMUNAL PROBLEMS, WE WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THEM THROUGH INTER-COMMUNAL CONSULTATIONS AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE BM GOVERNMENT WAS A UNIQUE AND STRONG COALITION AS ITS ESTABLISHMENT WAS BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS OF COOPERATION AND NOT ELECTION, UNLIKE COALITION GOVERNMENTS IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WERE FORMED BECAUSE NO ONE PARTY HAD ENOUGH OF A MAJORITY TO RULE ON ITS OWN.

A COALITION GOVERNMENT THAT WAS FORMED AFTER A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD NORMALLY FALL WEAK WHEN ONE OF THE PARTNERS WITHDREW AND PEOPLE DISSATISFIED WITH ITS ADMINISTRATION TAKE TO THE STREETS BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGH CONSENSUS. -- MORE
1528MST 21 08 88

0930

B E276 AAE
MAHATHIR - SEMARAK 3 MELAKA

+WE SHOULD BE PROUD THAT THE PEOPLE ARE STILL UNITED AND THAT 11,001 PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED SINCE INDEPENDENCE THROUGH LEVEL-HEADED NEGOTIATIONS AND ALL QUARTERS ACCEPTING DECISIONS WITH GRACE.

+THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE NOT PRONE TO STAGING DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXTREMIST ACTIONS LIKE THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE WE HAVE THE NEGOTIATING MACHINERY TO SETTLE PROBLEMS AND CREATE CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID RIOTS WOULD ONLY BE TO THE PEOPLE'S AND COUNTRY'S DETRIMENT BECAUSE NOT JUST FOREIGN INVESTORS BUT LOCAL INVESTORS TOO WOULD PLOUGH THEIR CAPITAL IN OTHER PLACES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE NEEDED TO LEARN FROM HISTORY, NOT JUST THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY BUT ALSO OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS A GUIDE IN PROBLEM-SOLVING.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD COLLECTIVELY ENSURE THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE COLONISED AGAIN AND THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE IN KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN. -- MORE
1548MST 21 08 88

0931

B E277 AAE
MAHATHIR-SEMARAK 4 MELAKA

+FROM HISTORY TOO CAN WE IDENTIFY THE CAUSE OF IMBALANCES IN DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE RACES AND TAKE THE NECESSARY EFFECTIVE MEASURES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE NOT TO FORGET THE MAY 13 1969 BLOT IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY WHICH HE SAID RESULTED FROM SOME LEADERS BECOMING CARELESS AND FAILING TO HEED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI WERE GREETED ON ARRIVAL AT THE BATU BERENDAM AIRPORT BY MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHIM TAMBY CHIK AND SEMARAK NATIONAL LEVEL CHAIRMAN DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT.

THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY A PROCESSION OF ABOUT 1,000 INCLUDING KOMPANG AND BUNGA MANGGAR GROUPS, HEADED FOR THE DAIS TO JOIN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA, CABINET MINISTERS, MENTERIS BESAR AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ENCIK GHAFAR AND LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES LATER HOISTED THE MALAYSIAN FLAG MEASURING 10M X 5M WITNESSED BY A CROWD OF MORE THAN 30,000.

AFTER LAUNCHING THE SEMARAK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND THE OTHER LEADERS PEDALLED TRISHAWS FOR 1.5KM TO THE MERDEKA DECLARATION MEMORIAL TO HAND OVER 10 TRISHAWS TO THE MELAKA TRISHAW PEDDLERS ASSOCIATION. -- BERNAMA
1550MST 21 08 88