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MAHATHIR-HATRED
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88 (P)
JOHOR BAHRU, AUG 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED THE PEOPLE HERE NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY A +HATE+ CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP BY CERTAIN GROUPS IN A BID TO WIN VOTES IN THE JOHOR BAHRU PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE MANIPULATED BY THESE GROUPS.

+WE SHOULD NOT BASE OUR DECISION ON FEELINGS OF HATRED AND EMOTIONS BUT ASK WHAT WE GET BY EXPRESSING SUCH FEELINGS,+ HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING TO ABOUT 1,000 CIVIL SERVANTS AT THE MENTERI BESAR'S RESIDENCE, SAUJANA, HERE.

HE SAID THE BY-ELECTION, FOR WHICH POLLING IS THIS THURSDAY, WAS TO SELECT AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND +NOT A GAME TO VENT FEELINGS OF HATRED.+

+THAT IS NOT THE AIM OF AN ELECTION BUT THERE ARE GROUPS INSTIGATING THE PEOPLE TO HATE THE LEADERSHIP,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-HATRED 2 JOHOR BAHRU

+IF WE ARE RULED BY HATRED, EVEN THE BEAUTIFUL WILL LOOK UGLY TO US, AND EVERYTHINGS IS NOT GOOD,+ HE SAID.

+I WISH TO SEMINO THE PEOPLE TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY IN WHATEVER POLITICAL ACTION THEY TAKE.+

ON THE NATION'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, HE DENIED CLAIMS THAT THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN WAS CAUSED BY GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY IN MANAGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

+WE HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED THE SLOWDOWN WAS CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL RECESSION BUT ALL OUR EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN REJECTED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS HAPPY PRICES OF NEARLY ALL THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY COMMODITIES HAD IMPROVED AND +WE CAN SEE THE JOY AMONG THE PEOPLE.+ -- BERNAMA
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