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SEMARAK-MAHATHIR
BM

SIK, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR --
~~MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FACT THAT NON-GOVERNMENT PARTY CANDIDATES CAN~~
WIN IN ELECTIONS DISPROVES CLAIMS THAT HE IS A DICTATORIAL LEADER.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES IN THIS COUNTRY COULD BE DEFEATED
IF THE PEOPLE DECIDED NOT TO VOTE FOR THEM AND THIS SITUATION COULD
NOT HAPPEN IN AN AUTOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP.

LAUNCHING THE SEMARAK (LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE) CAMPAIGN FOR
KEDAH AT TAMAN PERANGIN HERE, HE SAID IN COUNTRIES UNDER
DICTATORSHIPS, THE VICTORY OF GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES WAS 99.9 PERCENT
ASSURED.

HOWEVER, ELECTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE GENUINE AND NOT A
PRETENCE AS, IN COUNTRIES GOVERNED BY A DICTATOR.

IN MALAYSIA, CANDIDATES NOT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PARTY HAD
FREEDOM TO MOVE ABOUT HERE AND THERE, SPREAD SLANDER, MAKE THREATS
AND CAMPAIGN, HE SAID. -- MORE
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SEMARAK-MAHATHIR 2 SIK

THAT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES COULD BE DEFEATED ALSO PROVED THERE
WAS NO +FRAUD+ IN THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE
THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, IN PARTICULAR HE HIMSELF, WAS
DICTATORIAL.

+HOWEVER, THE MANY INSTANCES DISPROVING SUCH CHARGES SHOW THEY
(THE ACCUSERS) ARE LIARS AND CHEATS TRYING TO FRIGHTEN THE PEOPLE
FOR THEIR OWN ENDS,+ HE TOLD THE CROWD OF ABOUT 100,000 WHO TURNED
UP AT THE WATERFALL PICNIC AREA FOR THE SEMARAK LAUNCH.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED ANYONE WAS FREE TO CONTEST IN
ELECTIONS AND NOBODY WAS RESTRICTED FROM JOINING ANY POLITICAL
PARTY, PROVING THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THE PEOPLE HAD THE MATURITY
TO CHOOSE THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. -- MORE
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SEMARAK-MAHATHIR 3 SIK

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE THE COUNTRY DID NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF +COLONIALISTS+ AGAIN. CITING EXAMPLES FROM HISTORY, WHEN MELAKA FELL TO THE PORTUGUESE BECAUSE OF A TRAITOR CALLED KITOL WHO LEAKED SECRET INFORMATION TO THE PORTUGUESE, HE TOLD THE PEOPLE NOT TO THINK SUCH TRAITORS NO LONG EXISTED.

SUCH PEOPLE WOULD ALWAYS RE-EMERGE TO SELL OUT THE COUNTRY TO THE COLONIALISTS, INCLUDING INTERNAL +COLONIALISTS.+

+THERE ARE MALAYS WHO HAVE SURRENDERED THEIR POSITION TO THE ANTI-MALAY GROUP,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY HAD MANY RACES, BUT THE COMMUNITIES JOINING THE MCA, MIC, GERAKAN AND OTHERS (IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL) WERE THOSE WHO WERE SYMPATHETIC AS WELL AS AGREEABLE TO THE POLICIES FORMULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE POLICIES WERE FAIR.

BUT THERE WERE SOME POLITICAL PARTIES OPPOSED TO THE BASIS OF UNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND ASPIRED TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT BY ANY MEANS. -- MORE

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SEMARAK-MAHATHIR 4 SIK

HE SAID THERE WERE SIGNS SHOWING SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD FAILED TO SEIZE POWER HAD INVITED THESE PARTIES TO BE THEIR ALLIES, UNCARING WHETHER THE LATTER WERE A THREAT TO NATIONAL UNITY OR HAD A COLONIALIST MENTALITY.

HE SAID THESE PEOPLE WOULD USE ALL KINDS OF TACTICS TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING RUNNING DOWN THE LEADERS AND SMEARING THEIR IMAGE BY SPREADING ALL SORTS OF FALSEHOOD.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO HAD BEEN INFLUENCED AND HAD FALLEN PREY TO THE TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THESE PEOPLE.

HE STRESSED THESE GROUPS WOULD NOT PRACTISE DEMOCRACY IF ELECTED INTO POWER BECAUSE THEY FEARED THE PEOPLE.

THEY WERE TOTALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR INCLUDING BUMIPUTERAS AND THE RURAL COMMUNITY.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER THE SUBJUGATION OF THE COUNTRY BY FOREIGN POWERS IN THE PAST, SAYING THOSE WHO FORGOT THE LESSONS OF HISTORY WOULD SEE HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF. -- BERNAMA

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