

0213

U E747 ENG

MAHATHIR-COOPERATION

BN

PULAU PINANG, SEPT 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES TO CONSTANTLY COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO MAINTAIN A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID A STRONG GOVERNMENT WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE IT TO BE BOLD IN ACTING FOR THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS EVEN THOUGH THE MOVES MAY NOT BE POPULAR WITH CERTAIN GROUPS.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS RELAYED BY HIS POLITICAL SECRETARY, ENCIK NOOR AZAM, TO REPORTERS AFTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD HELD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH 300 BN LEADERS AND MEMBERS AT KOMTAR HERE.

PRESENT WERE CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU AND STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANWAR IBRAHIM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TALK OF NOT SUPPORTING THE BN SO AS TO WEAKEN UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS WIDESPREAD DURING THE JOHOR BAHRU PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION LAST MONTH, WAS A +DANGEROUS IDEA+. -- MORE
1953MST 03 09 88

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MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 2 PULAU PINANG

A WEAK GOVERNMENT WOULD ENABLE CERTAIN PARTIES TO MAKE DEMANDS FOR THEIR OWN SELF-INTERESTS AND +A WEAK GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DARE TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES USEFUL TO THE PEOPLE,+ HE STRESSED.

+THE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION THAT EXISTS NOW MUST BE SAFEGUARDED AND EACH BN COMPONENT PARTY MUST STRIVE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE STRONG.+

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THAT A NEW SYSTEM MUST NOT BE TRIED OUT TO TEST THE GOVERNMENT'S STRENGTH.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH THE PRESENT SYSTEM MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST, IT WAS FAR BETTER THAN OTHER SYSTEMS FOR COUNTRIES WHICH HAD A MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION LIKE MALAYSIA.

HE AGREED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY BUT SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVENTING RACIAL CONFLICTS BY HAVING STRONG LEADERS. -- MORE
1957MST 03 09 88

U E750 ENG
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 3 PULAU PINANG

COOPERATION FROM ALL RACES IN THIS COSMOPOLITAN COUNTRY WAS NECESSARY AS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WEAK IF ONLY ONE RACE WAS STRONG, LEADING TO OTHER RACES BEING DEPENDENT ON THEM.

EARLIER, DURING A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH 300 UMNO LEADERS AND MEMBERS AT THE SAME VENUE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, REMINDED THEM OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PARTY AS UMNO'S STRENGTH WAS THE STRENGTH OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BN.

THE PARTY'S STRENGTH WAS NOT ONLY FOR UMNO BUT FOR ALL RACES IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT TO HAVE A STRONG PARTY, ALL PARTY MEMBERS MUST WORK HARD AND BE WILLING TO ACCEPT DEFEATS IN ELECTIONS.

+CONTINUE TO HARD WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY AND PREVENT A WEAKENING IN MORALE AFTER ANY ELECTION DEFEAT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
2004MST 03 09 88

U E751 ENG
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 4 PULAU PINANG

+WHAT IS VITAL IS TO FIGHT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY AND RACE, AND NOT SELF-INTERESTS, AND STRUGGLE THROUGH A PARTY IS VITAL TO CREATE A PARTY THAT IS STRONG, NOT A STRONG LEADER,+ HE STRESSED. -- BERNAMA
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