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MAHATHIR-UMNO

BM

KARANG, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY STRESSED UMNO, AS THE PILLAR OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT, WILL UPHOLD ITS PRINCIPLE OF MODERATION AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ALL GROUPS.

IN SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF THE MALAYS, ISLAM AND THE COUNTRY, UMNO WOULD NEVER NEGLECT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE OTHER RACES, HE SAID.

+IT IS NOT EASY MEETING ALL THESE TARGETS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE SENARAK (LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE) MOVEMENT FOR TERENGGANU AT KAMPUNG KELULUT NEAR HERE.

HE SAID HOWEVER GETTING 13 POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY UNDER ONE UMBRELLA ORGANISATION (BN) WITH UMNO AS THE BACKBONE WAS A VERY BIG SUCCESS.

HE ALSO STRESSED UMNO WOULD NEVER USE THE POWERS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO OPPRESS OTHERS.

+IF WE HAD ANY INTENTION OF DOING SO, SURELY BY NOW THERE WOULD BE CERTAIN QUARTERS IN THE COUNTRY WHO HAD FELT THE EFFECTS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2031HST 20 10 88

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B E541 AAE

MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KARANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT ALSO STRESSED ALL MALAYS, WHETHER THEY WERE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE OLD UMNO OR ITS SUPPORTERS OR FROM OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, WERE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN UMNO UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP.

+THEY HAVE THIS RIGHT AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT JOIN WITH THE MOTIVE OF DESTROYING THE PARTY FROM WITHIN.+

THE UMNO STRUGGLE HAS TO FULFIL THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MALAYS IN PARTICULAR AND THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANYONE JOINING AS MEMBERS SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY BAD INTENTION AS THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY DEPENDS ON UMNO'S STABILITY.

+BEING THE ONLY POLITICAL ORGANISATION CAPABLE OF SHAPING THE DESTINY OF THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY, NO QUARTER SHOULD TRY TO DESTROY UMNO WHICH BELONGS TO ALL THE MALAYS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THAT UMNO'S STRUGGLE INHERITED FROM THE SPIRIT AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE OLD UMNO FOUNDED IN 1946 WAS STILL FAR FROM ACHIEVING ITS GOALS. +WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND FOR THIS WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF ALL MALAYS.+

HE PLEDGED UMNO WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO ATTAIN THE GOALS WITH THE HOPE NO QUARTER WOULD ATTEMPT TO THREATEN ITS EFFORTS.

THE GOALS MIGHT NOT BE ACHIEVED DURING THE TIME OF THE PRESENT GENERATION BUT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE. -- MORE

2030HST 20 10 88

MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KARANG

THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE MALAYS TO CLOSE RANKS AND TOGETHER TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE TO DEVELOP THE RACE AND COUNTRY SO MALAYSIA AND ITS PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE LOOKED DOWN ON BY ANYONE.

HE PRAISED THE ATTITUDE SHOWN BY THE MALAYS IN TERENGGANU WHO HE SAID DID NOT EASILY LOSE THEIR SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE WITH UMNO DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF CERTAIN QUARTERS TO WEAKEN THEIR MORALE. -- BERNAMA

2031HST 20 10 88