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U E465 AAE
MAHATHIR-BARISAN
BN

PULAU PINANG, NOV 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY REMINDED LEADERS OF BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTIES NOT TO GIVE IN TOO MUCH TO RACIAL SENTIMENTS IN EFFORTS TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

+IF ALL THE LEADERS WERE TO FOLLOW THE SENTIMENTS OF THE DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, SOONER OR LATER THERE WILL BE RACIAL RIOTS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE SERAKAM'S 17TH ANNUAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE AT THE OEMAN TUNJUK HERE.

HE URGED BN LEADERS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO UNITY AND THE BN SPIRIT WHICH AIMED AT REDUCING MISUNDERSTANDING AND FRICTION AMONG THE RACES.

HOWEVER HE REGRETTED THAT LATELY SOME COMPONENT PARTIES NO LONGER PRACTISED THE BN SPIRIT BUT INSTEAD FOLLOWED THE STYLE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES.

THEY WERE DOING THIS PERHAPS THINKING THAT THEY ALSO SHOULD OCCASIONALLY ACT LIKE OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY THEY REPRESENTED, HE SAID. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THOUGH IT IS TRUE WE SHOULD ALWAYS SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITIES WE REPRESENT, BN LEADERS SHOULD NEVERTHELESS STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS THAT WE OUGHT TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO WITH THAT OF THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION.+

+THE LEADERS SHOULD ALSO THINK OF BETTER AND MORE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS TO VOICE ANY DISSATISFACTION.+

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THEY SHOULD BRIEF THEIR PARTY MEMBERS ON THE BN SPIRIT AND THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE BN GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION.

+LET'S NOT JUST POINT ONLY TO THE FAILURE OF OUR COMMUNITY TO GET CERTAIN THINGS, WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING AND POINTING TO THE SUCCESS WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN THE INTEREST OF OUR COMMUNITY,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

IN FACT THE PARTIES WHICH REPRESENT THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY HAD OBTAINED MOST OF WHAT THEY HAD DEMANDED, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+BUT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT POINT TO THE SUCCESSES (THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED), THEY NOT ONLY CAUSE THE COMMUNITY WHICH THEY REPRESENT TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO WITH THE ROLE PLAYED BY THEIR OWN PARTY.+

+AS A RESULT, SUPPORT FOR THEIR PARTY DECLINES. THIS IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THE BN AND ALSO FOR THE COUNTRY,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED BN LEADERS OF THEIR EARLIER WILLINGNESS TO LEAD AND NOT TO BE LED BY PARTY MEMBERS.

HE SAID PARTY LEADERS SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG THEMSELVES.

+IF WE JUST GIVE IN TO THE PEOPLE'S SENTIMENTS AND MAKE USE OF SUCH SENTIMENTS TO GET SUPPORT, WE ARE THEN NOT TRUE LEADERS BUT FOLLOWERS.+ -- MORE

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ON GERAKAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS GLAD OVER THE UNITY PREVAILING IN THE PARTY THOUGH AT PRESENT IT WAS SOLEMN THROUGH A MINOR TEST.

HE ADVISED PARTY LEADERS TO ALWAYS STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PARTY BECAUSE THE STRENGTH OF EACH COMPONENT PARTY WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE THE STRENGTH OF THE OM ITSELF.

PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE DATUK SERI DATIM FAUZA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK DR LIM KENG YAIK AND GERAKAN NATIONAL ADVISER AND PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, SUPP PRESIDENT DATUK ANAR STEPHEN YONG, PBS PRESIDENT DATUK SERI JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN, PPP PRESIDENT PARAJIT SINGH, PDS VICE-PRESIDENT THOMAS SALANG AND DATUK ABANG ABU BAKAR MUSTAFFA (PDS)

NO MCA LEADER WAS SEEN AT THE FUNCTION THOUGH STATE ASSISTANT ORGANISING SECRETARY CHIN NYOK SOO WAS LISTED AMONG THOSE THAT WOULD BE PRESENT. -- BERNAMA

1431MST 26 11 88