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MAHATHIR-COALITION R'R'R'

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KUALA LIPIS, AUG 26 (BERNAMA) -- A COALITION GOVERNMENT AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES **WILL NOT SUCCEED** BECAUSE THEY WILL FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR KEYS **POSTS**, PRIME **MINISTER** DATUK **SERIDRMAHATHIR MOHAMAD** SAID TODAY.

PARTISEMANGAT 46 HAD CLAIMED THAT IT **COULD** GET 40 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS AND WOULD JOIN WITH **PAS**, WHICH IT BELIEVED COULD SECURE 20 SEATS AND THE **DAP** WITH 30 SEATS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT HE SAID.

+BUT SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO BE STRONGER. THEY WILL FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR CERTAIN **POSTS**,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE **LIPIS** UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES CONFERENCE AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL HALL HERE.

EARLIER ON ARRIVAL HERE BY HELICOPTER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK **SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH** WERE GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME. AMONG THOSE GREETING THEM WERE A **KOMPANY BAND** AND **BUNGA MANGGAR** BEARING MAIDENS.

DATUK **SERIDR MAHATHIR** SAID PARTIES IN THE COALITION WOULD LIVE IN FEAR OVER THEIR POSITION AS THEY WOULD BE WORRIED THAT THEIR PARTNER MIGHT ABANDON THE COALITION AND THIS LEAD TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, **THE PRIME MINISTER** SAID THE **BARISAN NASIONAL** GOVERNMENT HAD PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE AND **ITS CANDIDATES** (FOR THE VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES) WERE DECIDED BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION.

+**NOT EVERY COALITION PARTY CAN BECOME AN EFFECTIVE COALITION**,+ HE SAID AND GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF **HOW IN** A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHERE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SUCCEEDED. -- **MORE**

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DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR** SAID THE INTENTIONS OF THE **PARTI SEMANGAT** '46 HAD NOW BEEN EXPOSED: **+THEY WANT TO SEE UMNO BECOME WEAK EVEN** THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES MAY NOT BECOME STRONG.+

FOR INSTANCE IN THE RECENT **TELUK PASU** STATE **BY-ELECTION**, THE PARTY THREW ITS SOLID SUPPORT BEHIND THE **PAS** CANDIDATE TO OPPOSE THE **BARISAN NASIONAL (BN)**.

+THE CANDIDATE WAS **FROM PAS**, AS THEY (**PARTI SEMANGAT**) DID NOT GET THE SEAT THEMSELVES, THEY ALSO DID NOT WANT UMNO TO GET IT. SUCH ACTION ON THEIR PART SHOWED THAT THEY DID NOT WANT VICTORY BUT WANT TO **MAKE SURE THAT UMNO DID NOT GET** THE SEAT. SUCH IS THEIR **SPITE**,+ HE SAID.

DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR**, WHO IS **BN CHAIRMAN**, STRESSED THE NEED FOR EVERYONE TO **MAKE SACRIFICES** IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION.

IN THE **BARISAN NASIONAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE**, THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS GETTING AS **MANY** PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE SEATS AS POSSIBLE TO FORM STRONG FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS. -- **MORE**
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HE SAID AFTER HAVING WON THE SEATS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED SMOOTHLY.

THERE WAS A NEED FOR **SACRIFICE AS** THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO MIGHT NOT BE SELECTED AS CANDIDATES FOR SUCH SEATS, HE ADDED.

+SOMETIMES WE FEEL DISAPPOINTED BUT IF ARE PATIENT WE WILL RECEIVE BLESSINGS FROM SUCH **SACRIFICE,+** THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE ALSO THANKED THE KUALA LIPIS UMNO DIVISION FOR GIVING ITS SOLID SUPPORT TO THE BN CANDIDATE (**FROM THEMCA**) IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE REALISED THAT MANY WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS' DECISION TO SET ASIDE THE CANDIDATE PROPOSED BY THE **UMNO** DIVISION DURING THAT ELECTION.

+WE APOLOGISE FOR MAKING SUCH A DECISION **BUT** THEN OUR STRUGGLE IS A NATIONAL STRUGGLE, TO SECURE VICTORY TO SET UP A GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN MAKE **DECISIONS,+** HE SAID. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RECALLED THE EVENTS WHEN THE PEOPLE STRUGGLED FOR THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE.

AT THAT **TIME,** THE QUESTION **OF** PAROCHIALISM WAS NOT BROUGHT UP WHEN ACCEPTING DATUK ONN JAFFAR AS UMNO PRESIDENT.

IF THE QUESTION OF FROM WHERE DATUK ONN CAME FROM HAD BEEN RAISED AT THAT **TIME,** THE INDEPENDENCES STRUGGLE WOULD HAVE REACHED A STALEHATE AND EFFORTS TO FACE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN **STIFLED,** HE SAID. -- BERNAHA
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