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REPEATING FOR DAILY EXPRESS, KOTA KINABALU RRR
MAHATHIR-UMNO
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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE UMNO'S +HEALTH+ SO THAT THE +DISEASE+ IT SUFFERED BEFORE WILL NOT RECUR TO THREATEN THE PARTY'S POSITION.

HE LIKENED UMNO TO THAT OF A HEART PATIENT WHO, AFTER UNDERGOING SURGERY, HAD TO GUARD HIS HEALTH.

ALTHOUGH UMNO NOW APPEARED TO HAVE RECOVERED, TRACES OF THE OLD +DISEASE+ WERE STILL PRESENT AND AS SUCH CERTAIN PRACTICES THAT HAD TRIGGERED THE +DISEASE+ SHOULD BE AVOIDED, HE SAID WHEN HE SIMULTANEOUSLY OPENED THE FEDERAL TERRITORY UMNO DIVISIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE HERE.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE CAUSE OF THE +DISEASE+ SUFFERED BY UMNO WAS THE CONTESTS, ESPECIALLY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS WHICH HAD LEAD TO UMNO'S DESTRUCTION.

THE FERVOUR WHICH PEAKED IN 1987 HAD CAUSED UMNO TO BE DESTROYED BY A GROUP OF MALAYS THEMSELVES, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS WE HAD TO STRIVE TO RESTORE THE PARTY BY RESTRUCTURING IN DETAIL ALL PROCEDURES AND PARTY DISCIPLINE TO AVOID THE RECURRENCE OF THE SAME 'DISEASE',+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

AS SUCH, HE ADVISED UMNO MEMBERS TO PRESERVE THE PARTY'S STRENGTH BY AVOIDING CONTESTS WHICH ONLY CAUSED DISUNITY.

HE TOLD THEM TO REGARD THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S VIEWS AS THAT OF AN ADVICE OF A DOCTOR WELL-VERSED ON PARTY DISEASES AND ENSURE THAT CONTESTS WHICH ONLY SPOILT DESTRUCTION WERE AVOIDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL WERE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT ON THE FACTORS THAT HAD CAUSED THE RIFT IN THE PARTY.

UMNO MEMBERS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT CONTESTS BUT WHAT WAS MOST VITAL NOW WAS FOR THE PARTY TO STRENGTHEN ITS FORCES TO ENSURE ITS VICTORY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION WHICH WOULD BE HELD IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS' TIME, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT UMNO SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE PARTY MACHINERY WAS PROPERLY ORGANISED TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THIS WAS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE THE PARTY'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MALAYS IN THIS MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE NATION'S STABILITY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT SEVERAL EARLIER PARTIES WHICH HAD IGNORED THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS AND HAD FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MULTI-RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE SOCIETY, HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

+WHEREAS UMNO IS AWARE OF THE MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY AND MADE RIGHTFUL DECISIONS WHERE THEY ARE DUE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MODERATENESS WHICH HAD ALL ALONG BEEN THE PRACTICE IN UMNO HAD PROVED TO BE ACCEPTABLE AND CREDIBLE BY ALL THE RACES WHILE OTHER PARTIES LIKE PAS AND DAP WHICH ADVOCATED THE STRUGGLES OF A SINGLE RACE HAD FAILED TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE. -- MORE

1405MST 27 08 89

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALALUMPUR

ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, PAS, WHICH HAD REALISED THAT UMNO'S APPROACHES WERE THE BEST IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTABLE BY THE PEOPLE, HAD ENTERED INTO A PACT WITH THE DAP WHICH WAS CLEARLY AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.

IN FACT, HE SAID, UMNO ITSELF WAS +DISCRIMINATING IN CHOOSING FRIENDS+ AND CHOSE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE WHO WERE NOT ITS ENEMIES AND THEY COULD STAKE THEIR RIGHTS THROUGH DISCUSSIONS.

THE CONSENSUS REACHED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS DETERMINED +WHAT WAS DESERVING FOR UMNO AND DESERVING FOR THE OTHER PARTIES,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT OUT OF AWARENESS FOR SUCH A COOPERATION, UMNO WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE A CERTAIN SEAT IN THE ELECTIONS FOR ANOTHER COMPONENT PARTY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO ENSURE A MAJORITY VICTORY.

+IN OBTAINING A MAJORITY* WE SOMETIMES HAVE TO SACRIFICE A CERTAIN CONSTITUENCY FOR A WIN IN ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY,+ HE SAID. +WE MUST BE ADEPT IN POLITICAL MANIPULATION.+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER CITED HOW ONE MAJORITY RACE IN A CERTAIN CONSTITUENCY COULD BECOME A MINORITY IN ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY.

+THERE WERE ALSO CONSTITUENCIES WHERE THE MAJORITY RACE WAS NOT UNITED! CAUSING A SPLIT AND REQUIRING VOTERS OF ANOTHER RACE TO ENSURE THE WIN.

+WHEREAS IN ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY THE MAJORITY RACE BECAME REDUCED BUT BECAME A DETERMINING FACTOR FOR ANY PARTIES WITH A CANDIDATE FROM ANOTHER RACE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SEMANGAT 46 PARTY ATTEMPTING TO GARNER SUPPORT IN A CONSTITUENCY WON BY UMNO BY A SLIM MAJORITY.

+WE COULD LOSE IN SUCH A CONSTITUENCY IF THE PARTY TRIED TO GAIN THE FEW SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK GHAFAR BABA, IN HIS SPEECH, SAID THAT HE WOULD HOLD DIALOGUES WITH MALAYS IN THE CITY NOT KEEN IN POLITICS TO DRAW THEM TOWARDS UMNO.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI AND UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT. THERE WILL BE CONTESTS FOR THE POSTS OF DIVISION HEADS IN FOUR OF THE SEVEN DIVISIONS. -- BERNAMA

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