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MAHATHIR-TUNKU

ARAU, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO PRESENT AND FORMER LEADERS INCLUDING FIRST PRIME MINISTER, TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS BEING FAR-SIGHTED IN DEVELOPING AND ADMINISTERING THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TUNKU'S FORESIGHT WAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EVIDENT WHEN HE SPENT \$3 MILLION TO BUILD THE MERDEKA STADIUM ALTHOUGH AT THAT TIME MANY CRITICISED HIM FOR ALLEGEDLY WASTING PUBLIC FUNDS.

+BUT NOW THE MERDEKA STADIUM COULD NOT ACCOMODATE LARGE CROWDS. IF IT WAS TO BE BUILT TODAY IT COULD COST HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RINGGIT,+ THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID WHEN OPENING THE ARAU UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING HERE. THIS EVENING.

+WE ARE THANKFUL TO TUNKU. WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD THINGS THAT TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN DID,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED HIS CALL TO UMNO MEMBERS THAT THEY SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE PARTY REMAINED THE PILLAR OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER **REMINDED** PARTY MEMBERS THAT UMNO WAS FORMED IN 1946 TO UNITE THE **MALAYS** TO FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE.-- BERNAMA
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