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MAHATHIR-ELECTION
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PULAU PINANG, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERIDR HAHATHIR HOHAMAD, TODAY URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO AVOID ~~DOING~~ ANYTHING THAT WOULD PUT THE PARTY AT A DISADVANTAGE BUT INSTEAD CONCENTRATE ON FOSTERING UNITY ESPECIALLY WHEN A GENERAL ELECTION IS IMMINENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UHNO MEMBERS MUST AVOID CONTESTS FOR POSTS AT DIVISIONAL DELEGATES' MEETINGS SO THAT THE PARTY WOULD REMAIN STRONG AND UNITED TO FACE A GENERAL ELECTION SOON.

AS UHNO HAD JUST BEEN REVIVED, EACH PARTY MEMBER MUST AVOID ACTIONS THAT COULD SPLIT UHNO IN THE FACE OF AN UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR WHO IS UHNO PRESIDENT WAS SPEAKING WHEN OPENING THE BALIK PULAU UHNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING HERE.

+IF IT IS AFTER THE ELECTION, IT WILL NOT BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM TO HAVE CONTESTS FOR POSTS, BUT DURING THIS VERY PERIOD, UHNO MEMBERS MUST AVOID CONTESTS AS IT WAS SUCH A SITUATION THAT ONCE HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE PARTY+.

+SHOULD CONTESTS TAKE PLACE DURING THIS PERIOD, IT MIGHT MEAN THAT WE WILL BE DISUNITED AND DIVIDED IN FACING THE GENERAL ELECTION,+ HE SAID.-- HORE

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HE SAID UHNO MEMBERS MUST HEED WHAT THE MAJORITY WANTED AND SET ASIDE PERSONAL INTEREST AS UMNO WAS FORMED NOT FOR PARTICULAR INTERESTS BUT TO PROTECT THE RACE, ISLAM AND THE NATION.

ON THE SEHANGAT 46, HE SAID ITS MEMBERS WERE ACTUALLY BENT ON DEPRIVING UHNO OF VICTORY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION AND INSTEAD ENSURE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ESPECIALLY PAS WOULD WIN.

THIS PLOY WOULD ONLY PUT THE MALAYS AT THE LOSING END, HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SAID, THE GROUP WHICH COHPRISED FRUSTRATED PEOPLE, HAD CAMPAIGNED TO ENSURE A DAP VICTORY IN THE BENTUNG PARLIAMENTARU BY-ELECTION.

IN THE TELUK PASU STATE BY-ELECTION IN TERENGGANU THEY WORKED FOR THE PAS CANDIDATE WHEREAS THEIR OWN CANDIDATES HAD ALWAYS LOST, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE SPLINTER GROUP COULD SET UP A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE DAP AND PAS, THEY WOULD NOT PROTECT THE MALAYS AS THE COALITION WOULD BE A WEAK ONE.

PAS AND THE DAP WOULD MAKED VARIOUS DEMANDS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS AND THIS WOULD FORCE THE SPLINTER GROUP TO ABIDE BY THEM, HE SAID,

THE PRIME MINISTER HOWEVER DOUBTED THAT THE GROUP COULD WIN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

ALSO PRESENT AT WERE EDUCATION MINISTER AND UMNO VICE PRESIDENT ANWARIBRAHIM AND FELLOW VICE PRESIDENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI.-- BERNAHA

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