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MAHATHIR-UHNO

BM

JITRA, AUG 28 (BERNAMA) -- UHNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS HAPPY WITH THE CONDUCT OF ONGOING UMNO DIVISIONAL DELEGATES' MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

MOST OF MEETINGS HAVE ABIDED BY THE PARTY SUPREME COUNCIL'S ADVICE THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE CONTEST FOR IMPORTANT POSTS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS THE BEST APPROACH FOR UMNO TO FACE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+JUST WAIT UNTIL AFTER GENERAL ELECTION. IF THERE ARE PARTY ELECTIONS AFTER THAT, THEN IT IS UP TO THEM TO CONTEST FOR POSTS, WE SHALL NOT STOP THEM. BUT THEY MUST MAKE SURE THE CONTESTS DO NOT CAUSE CONTROVERSY OR SPLIT THE PARTY+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE KUBANG PASU. UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH JITRA HERE TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS THE DIVISION'S HEAD.-- MORE

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IN HIS SPEECH EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SPOKE AT LENGTH ON HOW THE PART1 SEMANGAT 46, WHICH CLAIMED TO STRUGGLE FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE SPIRIT OF UMNO, HAD DEVIATED FROM THE REAL SPIRIT OF THE PARTY FORMED IN 1946.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE SAID, UMNO WAS SET UP IN 1946 TO UNITE MALAYS AGAINST ENGLISH COLONIALISM, WHEREAS THE PART1 SEMANGAT 46 HAD INSTEAD CREATED ANIMOSITY WITH UMNO AND WENT INTO PACTS WITH UMNO'S ENEMIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO MENTIONED ABOUT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH'S BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR PRIME MINISTERSHIP IF ONLY HE COULD BE A LITTLE PATIENT AND CONTESTED ONLY FOR PARTY VICE-PRESIDENCY IN THE 1987 UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

+IF TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAD CONTESTED FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY IN 1987, HE WOULD OBVIOUSLY OBTAIN THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES AND BE THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (AMONG THREE VICE-PRESIDENTS).

+IF I AM NO LONGER PRESIDENT, ENCİK GHAFAR (DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA) WILL BE PRIME MINISTER AND OBVIOUSLY HE (TENGKU RAZALEIGH) WILL MOVE UP AFTER ENCİK GHAFAR, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.-- MORE

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INSTEAD, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS RUSHING TO BE PRIME MINISTER TO THE EXTENT OF LEAVING THE PARTY AND WENT AGAINST UMNO.

HE SAID THE PART1 SEMANGAT 46'S STRUGGLE WAS NOT TO WIN IN GENERAL ELECTION AS IT KNEW THIS WAS BEYOND ITS ABILITY BUT INSTEAD IT JUST WANTED TO WEAKEN UMNO AND REDUCE UMNO'S VOTES.

THE PART1 SEMANGAT 46 HAD POOR PROSPECT OF WINNING THE GENERAL ELECTION AS IT DID NOT HAVE POPULAR SUPPORT BECAUSE 1.3 MILLION OF THE 1.4 MILLION MEMBERS OF THE UMNO WHICH HAD BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL, HAD REJOINED UMNO.

KEDAH MENTERIBESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR HAJI HANAFI RAMLI WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS DIVISION DEPUTY HEAD AND VICE-HEAD RESPECTIVELY. -- BERNAMA

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