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MAHATHIR-BARISAN
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PULAUPINANG, SEPT 23 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL, A UNIQUE AND BEST COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS BEEN ABLE TO MERGE MULTI-RACIAL PARTIES FOR THE 'SAKE OF THE COUNTRY'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, THE PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID BECAUSE ITS SUCCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS THERE WERE NOW SECTORS WANTING TO COPY IT BY SETTING UP A PACT KNOWN AS + ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH+.

IF THE BN'S SUCCESS HAD NOT BEEN CONVINCING OR ITS STRENGTH AND ACHIEVEMENT WERE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED IT WOULD NOT BE COPIED BY OTHERS, HE SAID WHEN OFFICIATING AT AN ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA AT OLD FORT CORNWALLIS HERE.

HOWEVER HE DOUBTED WHETHER THOSE WHO WERE TRYING TO COPY THE BN WOULD SUCCEED AS PACT MEMBERS WERE WAS ONLY PROMOTING EACH OTHER'S IDEOLOGY.

THIS COULD ONLY RESULT IN CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A COALITION, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE PACT AS A HASTY COLLABORATION AND ANALOGISED IT TO +SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PUT UP A NIGHT+-- MORE

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HE SAID ALTHOUGH THEY SHARED A COMMON SLEEPING PLACE, EACH HAD DIFFERENT DREAMS, WITH ONE PACT MEMBER DREAMING OF SETTING UP AN ISLAMIC NATION AND ANOTHER, SETTING UP A RACIALIST COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THROUGH THE BN'S SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS, MALAYSIA HAD ACHIEVED EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT AND WAS ABLE TO BE SELF-RELIANT AMONG INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

IN THIS CONTEXT, HE URGED MEMBERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES TO UNDERSTAND THE COALITION'S CONCEPT IN UNIFYING THE PEOPLE TO ENSURE THAT THE NATION'S STABILITY WAS SAFEGUARDED.

+WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE BN ADMINISTRATION NOT BECAUSE OF THE COALITION SELFISH INTERESTS BUT BECAUSE ONLY THE BN CAN GUARANTEE THE PEOPLE'S AND COUNTRY'S PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

HE DENIED ALLEGATIONS BY CERTAIN SECTORS THAT UMNO WAS VERY DEPENDENT OF THE MCA WHILE THE MCA DEPENDED ON UMNO TO ENSURE VICTORY IN ELECTIONS.

IN FACT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, ALL COMPONENTS OF THE COALITION WERE DEPENDENT OF BN'S STRENGTH.-- MORE

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AS PROOF OF THE BN'S SPIRIT OF **CONSENSUS**, ALL ITS CANDIDATES WERE KNOWN AS BN CANDIDATES AND NOT AS UMNO'S OR THAT OF THE OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

BN YOUTH **CHIEF**, DATUK **SERI** MOHAMAD **NAJIB** TUN RAZAK WHO ALSO ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY SAID THE COALITION'S YOUTH WINGS WERE NOT ONLY SOLIDLY BEHIND THE COUNTRY'S **LEADERSHIP**, BUT WOULD SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE TO CREATE A UNITED AND **PROGRESSIVE** NATION.

WHILE DEPLORING THE FOREIGN MEDIA FOR TRYING TO CREATE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN BN PARTY LEADERS BY HARPING ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, HE SAID THE BN YOUTH WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST SUCH PUBLICATIONS.

ON THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN **UMMAH**, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE BN WOULD HAVE A CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL SEATS CONTESTED BY APU.

THE ASSEMBLY ORGANISED BY THE PULAU PINANG STATE **BN** YOUTH WIN6 WAS ATTENDED BY CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG **EU**, SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH **PAIRINKITINGAN**, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMAD RAHMAT AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER ENCIK RAILEY HAJI JEFFREY. -- BERNAMA
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