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MAHATHIR-MALAYS R' R' R'

KUALA LUMPUR, MEI 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO WERE NOT GRATEFUL FOR WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH MALAY UNITY.

+IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE 'GOOD FORTUNE' WHEREBY OUR UNITY HAS SUCCEEDED IN SAVING US,+ WE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER RECORDING HIS HARI RAYA MESSAGE TO THE NATION AT ANGKASAPURI HERE.

+WHEN THIS HAPPENS, WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS JUST A NATURAL OCCURRENCE.

+WHEN WE BECOME LESS GRATEFUL, WE NO LONGER SUSTAIN THAT WHICH HAS GIVEN US PROTECTION, AND THAT IS MALAY UNITY THROUGH UMNO, WHICH HAD SAVED US.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT +IF WE DO NOT SAFEGUARD OUR UNITY AND UMNO, WE COULD BE EXPOSED TO OTHER DANGERS AND WE COULD LOSE ALL THAT WE HAVE WON THROUGH UMNO+. -- MORE

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ON YESTERDAY'S DECISION BY THE BEREMBAN HIGH COURT SETTING ASIDE AN INJUNCTION WHICH STOPPED UMNO FROM CELEBRATING ITS 43RD ANNIVERSARY IN JOHOR BAHRU NEXT WEEK, HE SAID: +WE KNEW WE WOULD WIN THE CASE= IT WAS ONLY THAT THE OTHER SIDE RESORTED TO AN ACTION WHICH HAD NO BENEFIT IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF 1946.+

A GOOD WAY TO DO THAT WOULD BE TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF UMNO ITSELF, HE ADDED. +WE ARE NOT PREVENTING ANYBODY FROM CELEBRATING THE OCCASION IF THEY WISH TO.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I BELIEVE MANY UMNO MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT ON MAY 11 AND THEIR SPIRIT WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THEM FROM CELEBRATING THAT AUSPICIOUS DAY.+

HE SAID DISUNITY AMONG THE MALAYS HAD OCCURRED BECAUSE THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF MALAY UNITY AND UMNO.

THOSE WHO MERELY REGARDED UMNO AS AN 'INSTRUMENT TO FURTHER THEIR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS HAD CAUSED THE SPLIT AMONG MALAYS AND UMNO MEMBERS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MALAYS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

+IF THEY ARE REALLY CONSCIOUS OF THE SPIRIT OF 1946, DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE SEEING WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED,+ HE SAID. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, +BECAUSE THE YOUNGER GENERATION WERE STILL VERY YOUNG OR NOT YET BORN AT THE TIME THAT UMNO WAS FOUNDED, THEY DO KNOW THE PRESSURES WHICH WERE FACED BY THE MALAYS AND THEY DO NOT VALUE THE UNITY IN THE PARTY TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DESTROY THE PARTY AND HAVE IT DECLARED ILLEGAL+.

ON RECENT ACTIONS BY THE MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF TRADE UNIONS WERE MADE USE OF BY POLITICIANS, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SET A NEW BODY WHICH WOULD TRULY REPRESENT WORKERS AND WHICH WOULD HAVE AS ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +IF THE MTUC BECOMES A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF CERTAIN POLITICIANS, THE HTUC WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN ITS STRUGGLES BECAUSE IT WOULD THEN DEFINITELY BE ANTI-GOVERNMENT, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CO-OPERATE WITH IT. THEY (MTUC LEADERS) HAD BETTER TO THINK ABOUT THEIR ROLES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORKERS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. +

HE ADDED THAT IF THEY REGARDED THEMSELVES AS A POLITICAL ORGANISATION TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS, THEN THEIR ROLES AS WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES HAD ENDED AND THE WORKERS MUST SET UP AN ORGANISATION TO REPRESENT AND PROTECT THEIR INTEREST.

-- BERNAMA

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