

D949

U E919 AAE
UMNO-STRONG R'R'R'

BM

89
JOHOR BAHRU, MAY 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE TRADITION AND CUSTOM OF NOT CHALLENGING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, EVEN THOUGH MEMBERS MAY NOT AGREE 100 PERCENT TO EVERYTHING DONE BY THE LEADER, HAS MADE THE PARTY STRONG.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SPIRIT OF UNITY AND TRADITION AND MALAY ETIQUETTE HAD SUCCEEDED IN MOULDING A STRONG POLITICAL PARTY IN A RACE WHICH ALMOST HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS, EVEN MORE IN PARTY POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY.

ADDRESSING A PUBLIC RALLY TO MARK THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF UMNO AT THE ISTANA BESAR GROUNDS HERE, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID UMNO HAD MADE THE PEOPLE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED IN THE FIELD OF POLITICS.

RECALLING THE HISTORY OF THE PARTY, HE SAID IN 1984, THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT ELECTED IN 1981, WAS CHALLENGED AND ALL ADVICE NOT TO GO AGAINST TRADITION AND UMNO AND MALAY CUSTOM WENT UNHEEDED.

WITHOUT NAMING THE LEADER IN QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SPIRIT OF UMNO HAD VANISHED FROM THE HEART OF THE CHALLENGER AND ACTUALLY HE HAD ISOLATED HIMSELF FROM UMNO. -- MORE
2140MST 11 05 89

D950

U E920 AAE
UMNO-STRONG 2 JOHOR BAHRU

HE SAID THE CHALLENGER WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY THE UMNO SPIRIT BUT SELF-INTEREST WHICH PROMPTED HIM TO DO ANYTHING INCLUDING THE DESTRUCTION OF UMNO.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CHALLENGER ALSO ATTEMPTED TO WIN THE PRESIDENCY IN 1987 BY PUTTING FORWARD VARIOUS EXCUSES SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC RECESSION WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIM, WAS CAUSED BY GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY.

BUT THESE WERE ALL EXCUSES AS WHAT WAS UPPERMOST AND IMPORTANT TO HIM WAS TO WIN THE PARTY PRESIDENCY AND BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA.

HE SAID IN THE PAST, PARTY LEADERS SERVED WITH SINCERITY AND OTHERS DID NOT ENVY THEM BUT GAVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE ELECTED LEADER AND URGED LEADERS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO ACCEPT THE LEADERSHIP.

THERE WAS NO CONTEST FOR THE POSTS OF PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OR VICE-PRESIDENT AND ONLY IF THERE WERE VACANCIES CAUSED BY DEATHS OR OTHER MATTERS THEN THERE WAS CONTEST. -- MORE
2142MST 11 05 89

D951

U E921 AAE
UMNO-STRONG 3 JOHOR BAHRU

IF NOT ALL VICE-PRESIDENTS, DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THIS ARRANGEMENT IN UMNO STRENGTHENED THE PARTY AND ENHANCED THE CREDIBILITY OF ITS LEADERS FOR ONLY WITH SUCH INTEGRITY HIS VIEWS WOULD BE RESPECTED BY EVERYONE.

IT WAS LIKELY THAT SOME WOULD FEEL THIS WAS UNDEMOCRATIC BUT NOT CONTESTING AND REAPPOINTMENT ALSO OCCURRED IN A DEMOCRACY, HE SAID.

THE TRADITION AND CUSTOM IN UMNO OF NOT RUNNING AFTER PARTY POSTS WOULD ENABLE UMNO TO BE STRONG AND STABLE AND THE VIEWS OF THE LEADER WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS THE VOICE OF THE PARTY WHEN THE LEADER HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHERS.

+NO ONE IN THE PARTY REJECTS THE VIEWS OF THE LEADER. THE POWERS ENTRUSTED TO THE LEADER ARE RESPECTED BY ALL,+ HE SAID.

UMNO HAD ITS OWN MACHINERY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE FOR IF IT COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL, IT COULD BE REFERRED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. -- BERNAMA
2144MST 11 05 89