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UMNO-MAHATHIR R' R' R'
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, MAY 11⁸⁹ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THAT THE MALAYS STILL NEED STRONG POLITICAL POWER AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS LONG AS THE LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MALAYS HAD NOT REACHED THE STAGE WHICH COULD GUARANTEE THEIR FUTURE SUCCESS AND WELLBEING, THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE VICTORY IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.

DECLARING THAT THE MALAY STRUGGLE WAS NOT OVER, HE SAID THE MALAYS HAD NOT ATTAINED THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD HELP THEM TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN MALAYSIA'S MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY.

AS SUCH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID MALAY POLITICS AT PRESENT WAS NOT AIMED AT SECURING POSITIONS FOR ANYONE BUT RATHER TO UPHOLD THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS WHO WERE STILL WEAK.

THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS WAS SO MUCH BETTER NOW WITH SOME EVEN FORGETTING THE REASONS BEHIND THIS AND AS SUCH THEY SAW NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY AS UMNO WAS THERE TO PROTECT THEM, HE ADDED AT THE 43RD UMNO ANNIVERSARY GATHERING AT THE ISTANA BESAR GROUNDS HERE. -- MORE

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+IF THERE IS NO UMNO AND IF THE RULING PARTY HAS ONLY 40 MALAY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE REST COMING FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES, AS ADVOCATED BY THE GROUP OF FORMER UMNO MEMBERS, THERE WILL BE NO MORE PROTECTION (FOR THE MALAYS).

+THEN WE WILL RETURN TO THE SITUATION WHEN THE BRITISH RULED OR A SITUATION WORSE THAN THAT,+ HE ADDED.

IN HIS 55-MINUTE SPEECH, HE SAID UMNO WAS NOT A TOOL FOR ANYONE TO SECURE HIGH POSTS BUT WAS A WEAPON FOR THE MALAY STRUGGLE.

WITH THE EXISTENCE OF UMNO, THE MALAYS WERE ABLE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR POSITION AND IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY, HE SAID.

+UMNO HAS SUCCEEDED IN TURNING THE MALAYS INTO A RACE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED IN THE FIELD OF POLITICS. UMNO HAS BROUGHT THE MALAYS INTO A SINGLE AND EFFECTIVE POLITICAL FORCE WITH INTEGRITY AND ONE TO BE RECKONED WITH.+ -- MORE

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SUCH WAS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UMNO'S STRUGGLE THAT TODAY, NOT ONLY EVERY MALAY, BUT ALSO EVERY MALAYSIAN CITIZEN, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BENEFITTED FROM IT, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL THESE SUCCESSES WERE THE RESULT OF THE SPIRIT OF TRADITION AND CUSTOMS WHICH BROUGHT THE MALAYS AND THEIR ORGANISATIONS TO A CONGRESS ON MARCH 1, 1946.

SAYING THAT UMNO'S MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH AT PRESENT WAS THE SAME AS BEFORE, HE ADDED THAT IT COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT THE PRESENT UMNO HAD THE SUPPORT OF A BIG MAJORITY OF THE MALAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN UNITY AND WHO LONGED FOR IT COULD NOT REJECT UMNO FOR WITHOUT UMNO, UNITY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

+DOES IT MEAN THAT BY MERGING SPLINTER GROUPS WITH MINORITY MALAY GROUPS TO OPPOSE THE MAJORITY OF THE MALAYS, THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRUGGLE WILL BE ACHIEVED?+. HE ASKED, WHILE STRESSING THAT THOSE WHO ASPIRED TOWARDS UNITY SHOULD JOIN THE MAJORITY.

IF UNITY WAS TO BE ACHIEVED, EACH SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME POLICIES AS OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO UNITY BUT MERELY A PACT. -- BERNAMA

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