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MAHATHIR-UMNO  
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 14 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS PARTY MEMBERS TO ENSURE THAT UMNO'S INTEGRITY IS NOT JEOPARDISED DURING THE PARTY'S BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL ELECTIONS.

PARTY MEMBERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF ITS OBJECTIVES, WHICH ARE NOT ONLY AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY, BUT TO USE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO MAKE THE PARTY MORE SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETING UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA LEADERS AS WELL AS DIVISIONAL INFORMATION CHIEFS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DURING THE MEETING, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PARTY'S BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL ELECTIONS BE CARRIED OUT IN A PROPER MANNER.

HE SAID THE PARTY LEADERSHIP DOES NOT OBJECT TO ANYONE STANDING IN THE ELECTION BUT HOPED THAT MEMBERS AVOID GETTING INTO ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, IN THE EVENT OF A CONTEST.

UMNO DOES NOT WISH TO BE DECLARED UNLAWFUL AGAIN JUST BECAUSE ONE OR TWO OF ITS MEMBERS ARE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE UNITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY MORE THAN A MILLION OTHER MEMBERS, HE SAID. --MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO WAS MADE UP OF SENSIBLE MEMBERS WHO LOVED THE PARTY.

HE SAID THE YOUTH AND WANITA LEADERS WERE SINCERE IN WANTING TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY.

ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP ASSIGNING CERTAIN LEADERS TO OPEN DIVISIONAL MEETINGS TO PREVENT PROBLEMS, HE SAID THIS WAS A SMALL MATTER THAT COULD BE EASILY MANAGED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DURING THE MEETING HE HANDED OVER SOME LISTS CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THOSE ENTITLED TO ATTEND BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL MEETINGS. THESE MEMBERS, WHO HAD REGISTERED BEFORE MARCH 31, ARE ALSO QUALIFIED TO STAND FOR PARTY ELECTION.--BERNAMA  
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