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MAHATHIR-TAMBATAN RRRR
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IPOH; A.U.G. 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS SAID THAT THE VICTORY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) CANDIDATE FROM UMNO IN THE TAMBATAN STATE BY-ELECTION SHOWS THAT THE POSITION OF THE PARTY IN JOHOR HAS BEEN RESTORED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS TO THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BN IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE BN ELECTION MACHINERY.

COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BY-ELECTION TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE MEETING OF THE GOPENG UMNO DIVISION IN GOPENG; ABOUT 17KM FROM HERE TODAY, HE SAID THAT THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE OTHER RACES TO THE BN WAS VERY GOOD RESULTING IN AN +OBVIOUS VICTORY ALTHOUGH ONLY 63 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS WENT OUT TO VOTE. +

EARLIER, OPENING THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, SAID THAT UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD LEARN A LESSON FROM THE VICTORY THAT +TUSSELS WITHIN A PARTY WILL ONLY LEAD TO DEFEAT.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE WIN AND THE COOPERATION DISPLAYED BY THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TAMBATAN 2 IPOH RRRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE STAUNCH SUPPORT OF ALL THE RACES FOR THE BN WAS DUE TO THE HARD WORK OF THE PARTY'S DIRECTOR OF ELECTION TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN, WHO IS MENTERI BESAR, ASSISTED BY UNMO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT.

+THE CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK GHAFAR BABA AND OTHER BN LEADERS ALSO HELPED TO ENSURE BN'S VICTORY,+ HE SAID.

+I CONGRATULATE THEM AND THE BN SUPPORTERS FOR CHOOSING A STATE ASSEMBLYMAN THAT COULD BE OF SERVICE TO THEM,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS NOT THE PERSON THAT SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED FOR THE VICTORY.

HE SAID THAT PRAISE AND CONGRATULATIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THEM AND OTHER BN LEADERS WHO HAD WORKED VERY HARD AND TO THE VOTERS WHO HAD MADE A WISE DECISION.

ASKED WHETHER THE BN VICTORY MEANT THE INFLUENCE OF THE SEMANGAT 46 PARTY HAD BEEN ERODED, HE SAID +THEY COULD MAKE THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT.+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TAMBATAN 3 IPOH RRRR

+FOR US, THE PEOPLE DID NOT ACCEPT THE GROUP'S PLAN TO FORM A WEAK GOVERNMENT FOR AS LONG AS CERTAIN PEOPLE COULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED.

A WEAK GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, COULD NOT DRAFT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES BUT TO THIS GROUP THIS WAS UNIMPORTANT BECAUSE TO THEM WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER.

+IF UMNO IS DIVIDED AND BECOMES WEAK, IT WOULD NOT MATTER TO THEM, MAYBE BECAUSE SOOTHSAYERS HAS PREDICTED A CERTAIN PERSON WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER, SO THE' WILL CONTINUE WITH SUCH AN ATTITUDE,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE TERUNTUM STATE BY-ELECTION, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD RETAIN THE SEAT BECAUSE ACCORDING TO HIM THE BN +IS NOT BEING CHALLENGED BY ANY OPPOSITION PARTY.+

HE SAID THAT THE DAP DID NOT DARE CONTEST IN THE CONSTITUENCY EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS SOMEONE FROM THE PARTY WILLING TO BE A CANDIDATE. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TAMBATAN 4 IPOH ㊦㊦㊦

REGARDING THE +POST MORTEM+ ON THE DEFEAT OF THE BN IN THE TELUK PASU STATE BY-ELECTION LAST JUNE, HE SAID THAT A REVIEW WAS STILL BEING CONDUCTED BUT PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DIVISION AMONG THE UMNO MEMBERS IN TELUK PASU BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CHOICE OF CANDIDATE.

ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF TO ELECTION ACT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT A STUDY ON THE MATTER TOOK TIME BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY AFFECTED THE ACT BUT ALSO PROVISIONS IN THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

+WE DO INTEND TO MAKE THE AMENDMENT TO PREVENT WASTAGE. THE AMENDMENT IS AIMED AT MPS AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN WHO PURPOSELY RESIGN AND THEN STAND FOR ELECTION JUST TO PROVE THEIR POPULARITY,+ HE SAID.

THE TAMBATAN AND TERUNTUM STATE BY-ELECTIONS DID NOT FALL UNDER THIS CATEGORY BECAUSE THEY WERE HELD BECAUSE OF OTHER REASONS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT! MPS AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN WHO QUIT MERELY TO TEST THEIR POPULARITY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RE-CONTEST.

+WHEN A SEAT IS VACATED, A BY-ELECTION HAS TO BE CONDUCTED BECAUSE THE PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUENCY HAD TO BE REPRESENTED7 BUT THE PERSON WHO PURPOSELY RESIGN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RE-CONTEST!+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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