

U E564 ENG
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY
BM

SUBANG JAYA, AUG 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR... ,
MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A COUNTRY'S
ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IS DETERMINED BY THE EFFICIENCY AND SINCERITY
OF THE PEOPLE WHO PRACTISED IT.

LIKewise IT IS THE **MEMBERS** OF A POLITICAL PARTY THAT DETERMINED
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PARTY'S **STRUGGLE**, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE
PUCHONG **UMNO** DIVISIONAL DELEGATES MEETING HERE.

AN **ADMINISTRATIVE** SYSTEM WOULD NOT GUARANTEE PROSPERITY IF THE
SOCIETY WHICH PRACTISED IT IGNORED THE INTERESTS WHICH CAME WITH THE
SYSTEM, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM PRACTISED BY THE
NATION AND **UMNO**, FOR **EXAMPLE**, UPHOLD MAJORITY'S CHOICE OF THE
LEADERSHIP.

+BUT AT TIMES THE **MAJORITY** IS INFLUENCED BY FACTORS WHICH
RESULTED IN UNSUITABLE CHOICE BECAUSE THE PARTY'S IDEALS, THE MALAY
STRUGGLE AND FUTURE OF THE MEMBERS FUTURE ARE IGNORED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID OFTEN UNWISE CHOICE WAS MADE BECAUSE
THE PEOPLE OR PARTY **MEMBERS** WERE DUPED INTO **BELIEVING** PROMISES AND
BRIBERY OF THOSE BENT ON GETTING PERSONAL GAINS AT THE EXPENSE OF
THEIR RACE.- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DURING GENERAL OR PARTY **ELECTIONS**,
CANDIDATES BENT ON WINNING ONLY HAVE TO MAKE PROMISES OR GIVE
HAND-OUTS TO VOTERS WHO **MADE** UNREASONABLE DEMANDS AND EVENTUALLY THE
ELECTED LEADER WAS BELOW EXPECTATION.

HE REMINDED PARTY MEMBERS TO PRACTISE DEMOCRACY SINCERELY SO
THAT THE LEADERS THAT THEY CHOSE WOULD BENEFIT THE **PARTY**, RACE AND
NATION.

DATUK SERI DR **MAHATHIR** RECALLED THE 1987 UMNO ELECTION WHICH HE
SAID SHOWED HOW SOME **MEMBERS** ABUSED THE DEMOCRATIC CONCEPT.

HE SAID OUT OF A TOTAL 1.4 MILLION ESTIMATED UMNO MEMBERS UP TO
THE TIME THE PARTY ELECTION WAS **HELD**, 1,500 DELEGATES REPRESENTING
THE WHOLE PARTY MEMBERSHIP WERE CHOSEN TO CAST THEIR VOTES.

UPON BEING ELECTED HEAD OF THEIR RESPECTIVE **DIVISIONS**, THESE
PEOPLE WERE SUBJECT TO VARIOUS UNHEALTHY TACTICS TO WIN VOTES OR
INFLUENCE.

+THE RESULT WAS AN UNHEALTHY ELECTION WHEN A SEGMENT OF THE
DELEGATES WERE TAKEN IN BY PROMISES AND **BRIBERY**+, HE SAID. -- MORE
1637MST 20 08 89

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNDER A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, CITIZENS OR PARTY MEMBERS WERE DUTY BOUND TO PREVENT POSSIBLE SPLIT FOLLOWING CONTESTS FOR POSTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER LAST YEAR'S UMNO ELECTION, THOSE WHO HAD EARLIER CLAIMED AS BEING PRACTITIONERS OF DEMOCRACY DURING THE CONTEST, HAD IGNORED GENUINE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE BY DISREGARDING THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY AND TOOK UMNO TO COURT, HE SAID.

HE TOLD UMNO MEMBERS THAT AT ONE TIME IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE MALAY LEADERS TO HEAD A POLITICAL PARTY OR MOVEMENT AS THEY FELT THEY WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

ON THE CONTRARY, NOW THOSE UNFIT TO LEAD BUT WITH VESTED INTERESTS WENT ALL OUT TO PROMOTE THEMSELVES HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED UMNO MEMBERS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTEST FOR POSTS AND INSTEAD CONSOLIDATE PARTY RESILIENCE AND STABILITY.-- MORE

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MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 4 SUBANG JAYA

THERE WAS NO PURPOSE IN HAVING CONTEST JUST TO CHANGE LEADERS WHO ARE OF ALMOST SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS BECAUSE TUSSELS COULD ONLY LEAD TO SPLITS AFTERWARDS9 HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DISPLAY OF LOYALTY BY MALAYS TO THOSE THEY BACKED DURING A CONTEST MADE IT DIFFICULT TO CLOSE RANKS AFTER AN ELECTION WAS HELD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED THAT HE WAS NOT DENYING DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE BY DISCOURAGING CONTEST BUT UMNO MEMBERS MUST WISELY APPLY THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE.

THE PUCHONG DIVISIONAL CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM 30 BRANCHES HAVING ABOUT 11,000 MEMBERS,

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI AND SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB.-- BERNAMA

1708MST 20 08 89