

MAHATHIR-UMNO R R R
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 17 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO, BEING A PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR LEADING THE PEOPLE TOWARDS HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY, MUST REMAIN THE FOUNDATION OF BARISAN NASIONAL (BN), THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER URGED PARTY MEMBERS TO PONDER AHEAD AND MAKE UMNO A MODEL TO THE PEOPLE.

IN HIS KEY NOTE ADDRESS OPENING THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE, HE SAID: +WE SHOULD NOT CONFUSE THE PEOPLE BY QUARRELLING AMONG OURSELVES, JOSTLING FOR POSTS AND USING MONEY TO FURTHER INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS.+

IF SUCH PRACTICES CONTINUED, ALL EFFORTS WOULD BE FUTILE, THUS, CAUSING +WHAT WE SEEK WE DON'T GET AND WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE WE LOOSE (YANG DIKEJAR TIDAK DAPAT DAN YANG DIKENDONG BERCICIRAN),+ HE ADDED.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE EASILY BOUGHT WITH MONEY AND NOT TO REGARD DEMOCRACY AS A TOOL FOR MAKING EXCESSIVE DEMANDS.

A GOVERNMENT THAT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE AND ONLY WANTED POPULARITY WOULD SPEND EXCESSIVELY AND THIS WOULD MAKE A COUNTRY BANKRUPT, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN HIS ONE-AND-A-HALF HOUR SPEECH ON THE THEME +UMNO'S EFFECTIVENESS+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOUCHED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN UMNO SINCE IT WAS DECLARED UNLAWFUL BY A HIGH COURT DECISION ON FEB 4 1988.

HE SAID UMNO HAD NOW FULLY RECOVERED FULLY AND WON THE RECOGNITION OF MALAYS, GENERALLY, AND MALAY VOTERS, SPECIFICALLY, AS PROVEN IN SEVERAL BY-ELECTIONS.

UMNO NOW HAD MORE EFFECTIVE MEMBERS AND OPENED ITS DOORS TO ALL MALAYS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN IT TO COURT, HE ADDED.

+WE BELIEVE THEY WILL NOT DARE DO ANYTHING AGAIN WHICH WILL CAUSE UMNO TO BE DECLARED UNLAWFUL ONCE MORE,+ HE SAID.

THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION AND DISCIPLINE WOULD BE ENFORCED ON ALL MEMBERS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO'S CONSTITUTION HAD ALL ALONG CONTAINED PROVISIONS FOR RESOLVING WHATEVER PROBLEMS IN THE PARTY.

ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION WAS +NOT ABOVE+ THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY, THOSEWHO JOIN UMNO MUST SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION.

+THIS MEANS WE PLACE PRIORITY ON THE PARTY'S INTEREST AND STRUGGLES WHICH ARE DETERMINED BY THE MAJORITY,+ HE SAID.

ACTS OF DESTROYING THE PARTY BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT WITH THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY, NOT USING PARTY MACHINERY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND ACTS TO OBSTRUCT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY SHOWED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF THE PARTY AND THE CONCEPT OF MAJORITY WISH IN A PARTY PRACTISING DEMOCRACY, HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ACCORDING TO THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION THERE WERE NO UNLAWFUL DELEGATES DURING THE 1987 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE PARTY CONSTITUTION EMPOWERED THE SUPREME COUNCIL TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF DELEGATES AND MEMBERS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LODGE COMPLAINTS ON WHATEVER PROBLEMS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY WAS HELD.

HE SAID IN A PARTY HAVING MORE THAN ONE MILLION MEMBERS AND 8,000 BRANCHES, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT AND IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL ITSELF TO OVERSEE BRANCH MEETINGS WHENEVER THEY WERE HELD.

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+ALL CAN BE DECLARED UNLAWFUL, INCLUDING THE PARTY ITSELF, BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF ONE OR TWO AMONG MORE THAN A MILLION MEMBERS OR ONE OR TWO NON-MEMBERS WHO ATTEND A MEETING DELIBERATELY OR POSSIBLY WITH CERTAIN AIMS,+ HE SAID.

+IS THIS DEMOCRACY ? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WISHES OF THE MAJORITY IF ONE OR TWO PERSONS CAN DENY THE RIGHTS OF ONE MILLION PEOPLE?+ HE ASKED.

HE SAID: +WE ARE NOT BLAMING THE COURT FOR MAKING A DECISION BASED ON THE LAW.+ THE PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY WANT JUDGES AND THE COURTS TO ADHERE TO THE LAW WHEN MAKING JUDGEMENTS.

IF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES COULD NULLIFY COURT JUDGEMENTS (BY AMENDING THE LAWS IN PARLIAMENT), NO ONE WOULD HAVE ANY MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE COURTS, HE ADDED.

REMINDING MEMBERS TO ALWAYS ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE PROVISIONS TO AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION, ITS METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION AND EVEN ITS OBJECTIVES.

UMNO MEMBERS WERE TIED BY A +CONTRACT+ TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP AND IF THEY ACTED AGAINST IT, THEY WERE NOT KEEPING TO THEIR PART OF THE +CONTRACT+ AND WOULD LOSE THE CONFIDENCE OF OTHERS, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE POLITICAL MATURITY OF UMNO HAD AGAIN BEEN PROVEN BY THE ELECTION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF DIVISION HEADS WHO WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED WHEN OTHER CANDIDATES WITHDREW IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PARTY REMAINED UNITED AND DID NOT BECOME WEAK.

+WE FOUND THAT PREVIOUS ELECTIONS FOR LEADERS OFTEN LED TO DISUNITY AND AFFECTED PARTY LEADERSHIP AT DIVISION LEVEL,+ HE ADDED.

HE REGARDED AS +SHALLOW+ THE OPINION THAT DIVISION HEADS WOULD BE SELECTED AS CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION.

THAT WAS WHY THE SUPREME COUNCIL WANTED ELECTIONS AT THE BRANCH AND DIVISION LEVELS TO BE UNCONTESTED AND SUCH ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD AGAIN AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS TO STOP MAKING THREATS LIKE NOT SUPPORTING THOSE WHO WERE CHOSEN TO CONTEST IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IF THEY THEMSELVES WERE NOT SELECTED.

+WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE AIM OF HAVING A GENERAL ELECTION IS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

WITHOUT SAYING WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID VICTORY FOR THE PARTY DEPENDED ON ALL GROUPS AND NOT ONLY ON ONE GROUP. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UMNO 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PARTY SHOULD BE FREE TO SELECT CANDIDATES ALTHOUGH THE SELECTION OF +PARACHUTE CANDIDATES+ WAS NOT POPULAR.

+AS ONE OF THOSE PARACHUTE CANDIDATES IN UMNO, I REALISE THAT I WILL NOT BE WHERE I AM IF I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO STAND IN KUBANG PASU AFTER THE FORMER CONSTITUENCY WHERE I STOOD WAS FILLED WITH +TERRORISTS,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SELECTION OF +PARACHUTE+ CANDIDATES SHOULD NOT BE PRACTISED TOO OFTEN AS THE LOCAL PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE, HE ADDED.

A GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OR CERTAIN PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+BUT IF THE PEOPLE MADE A WRONG CHOICE, THAN THEY WILL GET A GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS WHO ARE BE OBSESSED ONLY WITH POWER,+ HE SAID.

UMNO HAD SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT THAT RULED JUSTLY AND IT HAD BEEN PROVEN THAT IT COULD BRING HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY TO THE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID UMNO WAS FORMED NOT TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER OR CANDIDATES AND, AS SUCH, MEMBERS SHOULD NOT GO OVERBOARD TO OBTAIN POSITIONS IN UMNO.

REMINING MEMBERS NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UMNO, HE SAID UMNO GAVE POSITIONS TO THOSE WHO COULD ACHIEVE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PARTY, THE MALAYS AND THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA

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