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U E160 AAE

MAHATHIR-TUNKU (CORRECTED REPETITION)

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY PROPOSED THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PLAY A ROLE AS MEDIATOR IN EFFORTS TO UNITE THE MALAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE TUNKU COULD BE AN IMPARTIAL +MIDDLE MAN+ WHO WOULD UPHOLD THE INTEREST OF ALL MALAYS AND THE MALAYSIAN NATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HIS MEETING WITH TUNKU, THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 ADVISOR, LAST SATURDAY WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS IN EFFORTS TO STABILISE THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE MALAYS.

+GOD WILLING, THE UMNO STRUGGLE TO UNITE THE MALAYS WILL BE FRUITFUL WITH THE HELP OF BAPA KEMERDEKAAN (FATHER OF INDEPENDENCE) AND BAPA MALAYSIA (FATHER OF MALAYSIA), TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ,+ HE SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS ON THE THEME +UMNO'S EFFECTIVENESS+ AT THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

HIS REMARKS WERE GREETED BY THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FROM THE 1,495 DELEGATES AND ABOUT 1,500 OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY, HELD AT THE DEWAN MERDEKA IN THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE.

THE TUNKU AND ANOTHER FORMER UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN WERE PRESENT AS SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE ASSEMBLY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-TUNKU 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS MEETING WITH THE TUNKU GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON MALAY UNITY AND THE POSITION AND RIGHTS OF OTHER MALAYSIAN COMMUNITIES.

+I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE PRESENT UMNO AND THAT PARLIAMENT DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO OVERRULE A COURT JUDGEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

ON HIS MEETING WITH THE TUNKU, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +ON NOV 11, I WAS RECEIVED BY YANG TERAMAT MULIA TUNKU WHOM I RESPECT AS THE FORMER UMNO PRESIDENT AND AS MALAYSIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER AND FATHER OF INDEPENDENCE AND FATHER OF MALAYSIA.

+I INDEED RESPECT THE TUNKU AS SOMEONE OLDER THAN I AM AS THIS IS THE MALAY CUSTOM AND, MOREOVER, THE TUNKU IS FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY OF MY HOME STATE (KEDAH).+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID RECENTLY UMNO MEMBERS WERE SHOCKED OVER THE TUNKU'S STATEMENT WHEN OPENING THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE MALAYS REJECT UMNO ON THE PREMISE THAT THE PRESENT UMNO WAS NOT THE ORIGINAL UMNO. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-TUNKU 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+THOUGH INITIALLY MANY UMNO LEADERS AND MEMBERS WERE VERY ANGRY, WE WERE ABLE TO SUBDUE OUR FEELINGS. WE EXERCISED PATIENCE AND CHOSE A MORE MATURE PATH, THAT IS, BY HOLDING HEART TO HEART TALKS WITH YANG TERAMAT MULIA TUNKU,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE UMNO YOUTH MOVEMENT, WHICH WAS USUALLY QUICK TO TAKE OFFENCE, TOOK THE FIRST STEP, UNDER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK'S LEADERSHIP, TO MEET AND DISCUSS WITH THE TUNKU IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOUGH THE MEETING WAS UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY UMNO AND THE MALAYS, IT NEVERTHELESS SUCCEEDED IN PAVING THE WAY FOR A WISER APPROACH.

THE MOVEMENT WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN ITS STAND AND THAT OF UMNO WHILE THE TUNKU WAS ABLE TO CONVEY HIS ASPIRATIONS TO THE YOUTH MEMBERS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO MALAY UNITY AND THE ROLE THAT OUGHT TO BE PLAYED BY UMNO YOUTH, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AFTER HEARING A REPORT FROM UMNO YOUTH ON THE MEETING, THE SUPREME COUNCIL AGREED THAT WANITA UMNO ALSO MEET THE TUNKU AND THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING WAS ALSO HELD IN A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-TUNKU 4 KUALA LUMPUR

PRAISING THE TUNKU FOR HIS EFFORTS IN GAINING INDEPENDENCE FOR MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY INITIATIVE.

HE ADDED: +MANY (AT THAT TIME) SAID THAT IT WAS TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN'S WISHFUL THINKING WHICH WILL REMAIN AS SUCH.

+BUT TODAY, WHAT WAS SAID TO BE WISHFUL IS A REALITY.+ -- BERNAMA  
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