

U E033 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEOPLE
BM

ALOR SETAR, NOV 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES NOT TO ABUSE THEIR POWERS TO ADVANCE THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS

IN A DEMOCRACY, THE PEOPLE AND THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE OPPOSITION SHOULD KNOW THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES AND ROLES WITH A VIEW OF ENSURING THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, HE SAID.

IF THEY WERE TO FOLLOW THEIR WHIMS AND FANCIES MERELY IN THEIR OWN PERSONAL INTEREST, THE COUNTRY WOULD SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES WHEN CHAOS BROKE OUT, HE TOLD ABOUT 2,000 PUBLIC SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES OF STATUTORY BODIES AT THE DEWAN DATUK SYED OMAR HERE.

+THE OPPOSITION TOO HAS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. IF THEY WANT TO PLAY ON PEOPLE'S SENTIMENTS AND IGNITE RACIAL FEELINGS, THEY CAN BUT THEY TOO WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN DOINGS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID APART FROM THE LEADERS, THE PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO KNOW ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND THE LIMITS OF THEIR POWER UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. -- MORE

1827MST 23 11 89

U E038 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEOPLE 2 ALOR SETAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE HAD THE POWER TO BRING DOWN LEADERS BUT IN MALAYSIA LET SUCH POWER BE USED TO TOPPLE LEADERS WHO DID NOT CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WELL.

+THAT ALSO IN A DISCIPLINED WAY AND NOT THROUGH REBELLION,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS HOUR-LONG SPEECH, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE PRESENT WELLBEING AND PEACE IN THE NATION.

HE SAID THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS FAR BETTER THAN DURING AND BEFORE THE COLONIAL PERIOD BUT THE PEACE DID NOT JUST COME BY ITSELF BUT THROUGH HARDWORK.

BY UNDERSTANDING THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES AND DUTIES AND BY WORKING EVEN HARDER IT WAS HOPED THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD ACHIEVE EVEN GREATER PROSPERITY THAN NOW, HE SAID. -- MORE

1841MST 23 11 89

U E042 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEOPLE 3 ALOR SETAR

TOWARDS THIS END THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LAUNCH A NEW CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE WORK QUALITY IN THIS COUNTRY -- +GERAKAN BUDAYA KERJA CEMERLANG.+

ON CIVIL SERVANTS SALARY ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THE PEOPLE ALWAYS WANTED SALARY INCREASES BECAUSE +THERE IS NO ONE WHO FEELS THAT HIS SALARY IS ENOUGH.+

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE SALARY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WOULD BE INCREASED +ON CONDITION THEY MADE THIS COUNTRY MORE PROSPEROUS THAN IT IS NOW.+

+OUR SALARIES WILL BE MORE IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN COLLECT MORE TAXES,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL PROGRAMMES INCLUDING THE PRIVATISATION OF SEVERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES WITH A VIEW OF EASING ITS SALARY PAYMENTS BURDEN. -- MORE

1854MST 23 11 89

U E044 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEOPLE 4 ALOR SETAR

HE SAID LATEST STATISTICS SHOWED THAT THERE WERE 700,000 CIVIL SERVANTS AND 200,000 MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES.

ON THE GENERAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OBTAINED A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

WITHOUT SUCH A MAJORITY, NO POLITICAL PARTY IN A DEMOCRATIC NATION COULD FORM A STABLE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA WAS DIFFERENT AND FAR BETTER THAN IN CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE THE BARISAN NASIONAL +COALITION GOVERNMENT+ HAD A STRONG +BACKBONE+ PARTY IN UMNO.

+IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION, WE SECURED A MORE THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY AND UMNO AS THE BACKBONE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL WON ALL THE 84 SEATS IT CONTESTED EXCEPT FOR THE LABUAN SEAT.+

-- MORE

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U E048 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEOPLE 5 ALOR SETAR

+THIS MEANT UMNO IS A STRONG PARTY AND WITH HELP FROM BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, WE ARE NOT AFRAID IN CASE ANY COMPONENT PARTY WITHDRAWS AS WE WILL NOT LOSE THE TWO-THIRD MAJORITY.+

HE SAID THE WITHDRAWAL OF 16 BARISAN NASIONAL DEWAN RAKYAT MEMBERS TO JOIN PARTI SEMANGAT 46 AFTER 1987 HAD NOT IN THE LEAST AFFECTED UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A STRONG GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THERE WAS NO CONFLICT IN THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED HERE THIS EVENING TOGETHER WITH DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT. -- BERNAMA
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