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MUAR, D E C 11 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON THE MALAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE RACE REMAINED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UMNO TO DETERMINE THEIR CONTINUED PROGRESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN DISUNITY AMONG THE MALAYS AND OTHER CHOICE OF PARTIES FOR THE MALAYS, THOSE WHO BROKE AWAY SHOULD BE LEFT TO REMAIN ONLY AS +SPLINTERS!+

THIS WAS VITAL TO ENSURE THAT THE MALAYS HAD SURPLUS ENERGY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS AND NOT BE CONFINED TO POLITICS ALONE, HE SAID AT A GATHERING TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHOR MALAY FORUM HERE.

+IF THE MALAYS WERE TO WASTE TIME IN CONFLICTS, THEY WILL NOT HAVE ENERGY LEFT TO EXCEL IN OTHER ENDEAVOURS LIKE IN THE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT TO ENSURE THAT UMNO REMAINED THE PARTY OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MALAYS, ALL CONCERNED SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE YOUNGER MALAY GENERATION REGISTERED THEMSELVES AS UMNO MEMBERS. -- MORE

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+ADMITTEDLY THE MALAY UMNO HAS SUCCEEDED IN POLITICS BUT THEY SHOULD NOT DEPEND TOO MUCH ON A CERTAIN STRENGTH ONLY BECAUSE IT MAY CRACK UP,+ HE SAID AT THE FUNCTION ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 101000 MALAYS INCLUDING CABINET AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN WHO IS ALSO ADVISOR TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE JOHOR MALAY FORUM HELD IN JOHOR BAHRU IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE ASSEMBLY HAD AMONG OTHERS UNITED THE MALAYS IN UMNO.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE OF THE MALAYS HAD NOT ENDED AS THERE WERE STILL MANY UNFINISHED TASKS TO BE GIVEN FOCUS TO MAKE THE MALAYS A RESPECTED RACE.

+WE DO NOT WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO LOOK DOWN ON THE MALAYS ANYMORE AND FOR THE MALAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE DIVIDED AND BACKWARD,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, TUN HUSSEIN SAID THAT EFFORTS TOWARDS MALAY UNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH UTMOST SINCERITY AND QUICKLY SO THAT FOCUS WOULD BE TURNED TO OTHER ASPECTS LIKE THE ECONOMY, RELIGION AND CULTURE OF THE RACE. -- MORE

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A SINCERE DISCUSSION WAS VITAL BECAUSE WITHOUT SUCH AN ELEMENT MANY PROBLEMS MIGHT AROSE WHETHER AT THE DISCUSSION STAGE OR IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION, HE SAID.

+IF WE ARE REALLY BENT ON SEEKING A SOLUTION TO MALAY UNITY, WE SHOULD NOT DELAY ANY LONGER BECAUSE MANY OBSTACLES MIGHT HAVE TO BE FACED IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

HE REMINDED THE MALAYS TO BE UNITED BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE ... +BEFORE OUR ECONOMY AND POLITICS ARE THREATENED.+

HE ADDED THAT THE MALAYS SHOULD THINK OF THE FUTURE GENERATION AND TO CAST ASIDE THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS WHILE STRIVING TO ATTAIN UNITY.

THE FUNCTION BEGAN WITH A TAHLIL AND PRAYERS AT THE SULTAN IBRAHIM MOSQUE HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THEN ACCOMPANIED BY KOMPANG AND BUNGA MANGGAR BEARERS TO THE NEARBY MUAR HIGH SCHOOL FIELD WHERE THOUSANDS OF MALAYS HAD GATHERED, -- BERNAMA

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