

MAHATHIR-ELECTION
BM

IPOH, MARCH 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS NO CHEATING IN ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE ARE FREE TO CHOOSE THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WIN ANY SEAT IF THERE WERE CHEATING IN THE ELECTIONS.

+THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO CHEAT AS THE PEOPLE SUPPORT US AND WE CAN WIN,+ HE ADDED.

ADDRESSING ABOUT 3,500 GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AT A MEETING HERE, HE ALSO SAID CERTAIN COUNTRIES HAD ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PRACTISING DICTATORSHIP TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE WAS NO FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS FREEDOM IN MALAYSIA AND ITS PEOPLE WERE FREE TO CHOOSE THE GOVERNMENT, UNLIKE CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH CLAIMED TO PRACTISE DEMOCRACY BUT THE OPPOSITION COULD NOT WIN EVEN A SINGLE SEAT. -- MORE

1850MST 10 03 90

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THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ON A VISIT TO PERAK, SAID MANY OPPOSITION CANDIDATES HAD WON ELECTIONS AND HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

+IN FACT, THEY HAD EVEN FORMED GOVERNMENTS, LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 1959 AND 1969 ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

IN 1959, THE ALLIANCE PARTY LOST IN KELANTAN AND TERENGGANU WHILE PAS WAS RULING KELANTAN FOR 18 YEARS AS AN OPPOSITION, HE ADDED.

IN 1969, GERAKAN, THEN AN OPPOSITION PARTY, WON AND FORMED THE PULAU PINANG GOVERNMENT WHILE IN PERAK THE OPPOSITION ALMOST TRIUMPHED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT A FEW YEARS BACK PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS), AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY, DEFEATED BARISAN NASIONAL'S BERJAYA IN THE SABAH STATE ELECTION.

+THESE SHOW THAT ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY ARE FREE FROM CHEATING AND SUCH RESULTS ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE USE THE FREEDOM IN AN ORDERLY AND DISCIPLINED MANNER,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1911MST 10 03 90

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U E766 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 3 IPOH

ALTHOUGH FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY HAD ITS RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS, THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED THEM BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR THEY WOULD ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S PEACE AND STABILITY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID RACIAL SENTIMENTS IN THE COUNTRY HAD ALSO BEEN CHECKED THROUGH THE UNIQUE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF COALITION INVOLVING THE VARIOUS RACES.

THE TYPE OF COOPERATION PRACTISED BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO FORM COALITION ONLY AFTER GENERAL ELECTIONS WAS NOT EFFECTIVE, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PRAISED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION WENT ON SMOOTHLY BECAUSE BOTH SIDES APPRECIATED THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, HE ADDED.

WITHOUT SUCH UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD BE NO STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID. -- MORE

1936MST 10 03 90

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U E769 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 4 IPOH

ON THE NOTION THAT THE SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SHOULD RISE ACCORDING TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CARRY OUT STUDIES ON A POSSIBLE SALARY REVISION IF ITS REVENUE INCREASED.

THE PROBLEM ON SALARY INCREASE, HE SAID, COULD BE OVERCOME THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AS WAS SUCCESSFULLY DONE FOR THE RECENT INCREASE IN ALLOWANCE.

HE SAID CONFRONTATION BETWEEN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WOULD NOT RESOLVE PROBLEMS. -- BERNAMA
1948MST 10 03 90