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B E637 AAE ENG MES
MAHATHIR-FUND R'R'R'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 17, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND OUT HOW OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE SO MUCH FUND TO SPEND LAVISHLY ON THEIR CAMPAIGNING LATELY.

IT WILL START A PROBE ONCE A COMPLAINT IS LODGED ON THE MATTER, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS HERE.

+I GIVE MY ASSURANCE THAT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ACCUSED OF HAVING POLITICAL INTERESTS OR NOT, WE SHALL NOT HESITATE TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION (AGAINST PARTIES INVOLVED),+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SOME UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INVESTIGATE INTO ALLEGED BIG SPENDING BY OPPOSITION PARTIES SUCH AS THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46, THE DAP AND PAS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

HE SAID EVEN IF THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF IRREGULARITIES IN THE PARTIES' FINANCIAL RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN, THE GOVERNMENT STILL WANTED TO KNOW WHERE THEIR FUNDS CAME FROM.-- MORE
1558MST 17 03 90

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B E639 AAE ENG MES
MAHATHIR-FUND 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

WHEN REPORTERS ASKED FOR AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT SPENT BY OPPOSITION PARTIES ON CAMPAIGNING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MERELY SAID + THEY HAVE SPENT MILLIONS+.

MORE THAN 3,000 UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ATTENDED THE MEETING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID PARTY YOUTH MEMBERS MUST IMPROVE ON THEIR STRATEGIES TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE SPIRIT DISPLAYED BY UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS IN FACING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING, HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, WERE BRIEFED ON PARTY STRATEGIES.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT GHAFAR BABA AND UMNO YOUTH CHIEF DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK ALSO BRIEFED THEM.-- BERNAMA
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