

D334

U E635 AAE ENG MES
REPETITION CORRECTING THIRD PARA R R R
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

KUALA TERENGGANU, APRIL 10⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE WILL REJECT THOSE WHO USE ISLAM TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL ENDS IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THE RECENT PANTAI MERDEKA STATE BY-ELECTION IN KEDAH CLEARLY SHOWED HOW SUCH PEOPLE DISCARDED THE PRINCIPLES OF THEIR STRUGGLE, PURPORTEDLY BASED ON ISLAM, MERELY TO WIN VOTES, HE SAID. + TO THEM, PRINCIPLES ARE TO BE IGNORED WHEN NECESSARY, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH THE TERENGGANU UMNO YOUTH COMMITTEE AT WISMA DARUL IMAN, HERE THIS EVENING.

AFTER THE HOUR-LONG MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER BROKE FAST WITH THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STATE UMNO LEADERS.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR AND YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER, DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK WHO IS UMNO YOUTH CHIEF.-- MORE
2213MST 10 04 90

D330

U E632 AAE ENG MES
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL ENDS, PAS LEADERS READILY JOINED DAP IN CERAMAH DURING CAMPAIGNING FOR THE BY-ELECTION.

HE SAID THEIR ANTICS CLEARLY EXPOSED THE HYPOCRISY OF PAS' STRUGGLES AS THEY WERE GOING AROUND DISMISSING COOPERATION WITH THE DAP WHICH WAS BENT ON SETTING UP A SECULAR NATION WHEREAS PAS LEADERS WANTED TO CREATE AN ISLAMIC STATE.

THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT WANT TO SPECULATE HOW FAR UMNO COULD GAIN FROM PAS' ALLIANCE WITH THE DAP AND SEMANGAT 46.

+ LET US WAIT FOR THE PEOPLE'S VERDICT IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID LIKE OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, MALAYSIA TOO HAD IMPLEMENTED SYARIAH LAWS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.-- MORE
2140MST 10 04 90

D331

U E633 AAE ENG MES
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

+ AS IN OTHER ISLAMIC STATES , WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL REALITY WHEN IMPLEMENTING SYARIAH LAWS,+ HE SAID.

ON THIS EVENING'S MEETING, HE SAID THE PURPOSE WAS FOR HIM, AS PARTY PRESIDENT, TO EXPLAIN TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS, UMNO'S IDEALS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS IMPORTANT SO THAT UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE PARTY'S STRUGGLES BEFORE DRAWING UP STRATEGIES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

TOMORROW, HE IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A SIMILAR MEETING WITH THE KELANTAN UMNO YOUTH COMMITTEE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MEETINGS WERE HOWEVER NOT INTENDED TO GAUGE THE PARTY'S READINESS AT STATE LEVEL IN FACING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

+ WE HAVE A SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR THAT AND WILL ACT WHEN THE TIME COMES+, HE SAID.

ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS STILL AT PULAU BIDONG, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING STEPS TO CLEAR THE ISLAND OF THE BOAT PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ANY ACTION TOWARDS THIS END SHOULD BE HUMANITARIAN AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FEELINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.-- BERNAMA

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