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MAHATHIR-BN

BM

JERTEH, JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE BLOODY RIOTS OF t&y--'13, 1969 WILL NOT RECUR AS LONG AS THE COUNTRY IS GOVERNED BY THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE PEOPLE WERE AWARE THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS FAIR TO ALL RACES AND BASED ON GOOD PRINCIPLES.

+THEREFORE, I AM CONFIDENT THE MAY 13 INCIDENT IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST TO OCCUR IN THIS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID AT A +MAHATHIR WITH THE PEOPLE+ GATHERING HERE ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

HE SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION CLAIM THAT THE UMNO-LED BN GOVERNMENT WAS CRUEL AND RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE WAS A PLOY TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

A CRUEL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WASTE TIME LOOKING AFTER THE INTEREST OF THE POOR, INCLUDING THE FARMERS, HE SAID.

+WE IMPOSE TAXES ON THE RICH AND DISTRIBUTE THE REVENUE TO THE POOR THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, LIKE BUILDING IRRIGATION CANALS, PROVIDING PLOUGHING MACHINES AND SUPPLYING FERTILISERS AND SEEDS SO THAT THE INCOMES OF THE FARMERS ARE ENSURED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTED FREEDOM, NEWSPAPERS LIKE WATAN AND MINGGUAN KOTA, WHICH ALWAYS HIT OUT AT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CLOSED BECAUSE, HE, AS THE HOME MINISTER, COULD WITHDRAW THEIR PUBLISHING LICENCES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OPPOSITION LEVELLED ALL KINDS OF ALLEGATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENT TO FISH FOR VOTES. -- BERNAMA

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