

MAHATHIR R' R' R' R' R'
BM

JELEBU, JUNE 23, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS TO THINK OF THE PARTY RATHER THAN ITS CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THEY SHOULD NOT BE BOTHERED ABOUT THE PERSONALITY OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES BUT INSTEAD ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE POLLS, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT.

UMNO MEMBERS MUST ADOPT SUCH ATTITUDE TO ENABLE THE BN SECURE TWO-THIRD MAJORITY TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT, HE TOLD NEGERI SEMBILAN UMNO MEMBERS DURING A BRIEFING AT SIMPANG DURIAN NEAR HERE TODAY.

+A 51 PER CENT WIN IS NOT ENOUGH. THE BN NEEDS A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO BE TAKEN IN BY OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE SEMANGAT 46 WHICH WAS TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE DISSATISFACTION AMONG SOME MEMBERS. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SEMANGAT 46 WAS LOOKING FOR DISSATISFIED UMNO MEMBERS AND HAD OFFERED THEM VARIOUS POSTS.

DURING THEIR CAMPAIGNING, SEMANGAT 46 LEADERS HAD OFFERED MINISTERIAL POSTS TO 48 PEOPLE, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID UMNO WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO WIN ALL THE SEATS TO BE CONTESTED IN THE POLLS BUT A SPLIT WITHIN IT DUE TO FRUSTRATED MEMBERS NOT SELECTED AS CANDIDATES COULD CAUSE ITS DEFEAT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, +WE ARE IN THE PARTY NOT BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE CANDIDATES OR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES BUT BECAUSE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS.

+WE MUST ABIDE BY WHAT THE PARTY WANTS...THE ELECTION IS NOT MERELY TO PROMOTE ANYONE BUT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.+

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE WASTEFUL BY VOTING IN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES OR THOSE NOT FROM THE RULING PARTY AS ONLY CANDIDATES FROM THE RULING PARTY COULD SERVE THEM AND DELIVER THE GOODS.-- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT TO JELEBU TODAY WAS PART OF HIS NATION-WIDE TOUR IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD VOTE FOR BN CANDIDATES REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE FROM THE MCA OR MIC.

+WE MUST STRENGTHEN OURSELVES SPIRITUALLY AND UNDERSTAND THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID LONG SERVING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD BE DROPPED MUST NOT BE FRUSTRATED BUT INSTEAD WORK HARD TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR NEW CANDIDATES.

+THEY MUST WORK HARD TO PROMOTE THE NEW CANDIDATE JUST AS THE PERSON HAD WORKED HARD TO PROMOTE THEM THE LAST TIME, AND NOT BY GOING AGAINST OWN PARTY.+

+ IF I WERE TO RESIGN, I PLEDGE THAT I SHALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARTY,+ HE SAID.

HE CRITICISED UMNO MEMBERS WHO JOINED OTHER PARTIES OR HAD SEEMINGLY ADOPTED A NEUTRAL STAND AFTER LEAVING IT.-- BERNAMA