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MAHATHIR-LEADERS

BM

ARAU, JUNE 25 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED THE MALAYS NOT TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO PLACE SELF-INTEREST ABOVE THE PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THEY SHOULD CHOOSE ONLY LEADERS WITH PRINCIPLES LIKE THOSE IN UMNO WHO FOUGHT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS, ISLAM AND THE NATION.

+WE SHOULD STUDY THOSE ASPIRING TO BE LEADERS. IF HE STILL SUPPORTS THE PARTY DESPITE NOT GETTING A POST, THEN HE IS FIGHTING FOR THE PARTY,+ HE TOLD ABOUT 8,000 PERLIS UMNO LEADERS AND ELECTION WORKERS AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH VOKASIONAL HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE LEADERS IN UMNO WHO DISTANCED THEMSELVES WHILE SOME EVEN JOINED SEMANGAT 46 WHEN THEY FAILED TO GET POSITIONS IN THE PARTY.

+THIS TYPE OF PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO BE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THEM TO GET HIGH POSITIONS BEFORE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-LEADERS 2 ARAU

HE SAID SEMANGAT 46 LEADERS, WHILE STILL IN UMNO, HAD TURNED THEIR BACKS ON THE 1.4 MILLION UMNO MEMBERS WHEN THEY FAILED TO GAIN POSITIONS IN THE PARTY.

IN FACT, THEY DRAGGED THE PARTY TO COURT JUST BECAUSE ONE OR TWO BRANCHES WERE WRONG WHEN THE MATTER COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WITHIN THE PARTY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED.

+IF HE WINS AND BECOMES UMNO PRESIDENT MAYBE THE MISTAKE WOULD HAVE BEEN HUSHED UP JUST LIKE THAT,+ HE SAID IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WHO CHALLENGED HIM FOR THE PARTY PRESIDENCY IN 1987.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANYONE COULD HOLD IMPORTANT POSTS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENCY? BUT THEY SHOULD BE PATIENT AS THE PRESENT LEADERS WERE NOT PERMANENT.

HE SAID HE RESPECTED TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN FOR BRINGING INDEPENDENCE TO THE COUNTRY BUT ADDED THAT THIS WAS ACHIEVED WITH THE SOLID SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

WITHOUT THE PEOPLE'S UNITY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE COUNTRY TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE, HE ADDED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-LEADERS 3 ARAU

ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAS AND DAP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CLAIMED THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN DECEIVING THE PEOPLE, SAYING THIS WAS EVIDENT WHEN PAS SAID DAP WAS AGREEABLE TO THE CREATION OF AN ISLAMIC STATE BUT THE LATTER DENIED SO.

+UMNO DOES NOT WANT TO CHEAT ANYONE, IN FACT IT HAS BEEN FRANK WITH ALL THE OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTIES ON ITS ASPIRATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FOR UMNO TO CONTINUE TO BE THE PLATFORM FOR THE MALAY STRUGGLE EVEN AFTER THE PRESENT LEADERS WERE GONE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS STRIVED TO ENSURE THE PEOPLE A BETTER FUTURE AND HE WAS THANKFUL THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WAS CONTINUING TO IMPROVE WITH THE ENTRY OF MORE FOREIGN INVESTORS.

HE HOPED UMNO AND THE OTHER BN COMPONENTS WOULD SWEEP THE SEATS IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION TO PROVE THAT THE RULING PARTY WAS TRULY SERVING THE PEOPLE AND NATION. -- BERNAMA

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