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MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION R R R
BM

JERANTUT, JUNE 30 (BERNAMA) -- THE COALITION GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL NOT SUCCEED BECAUSE IT IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE A STRONG BACKBONE PARTY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THIS IS BECAUSE PAS AND THE DAP ARE POLES APART AND WOULD EACH TRY TO THREATEN SEMANGAT 46 WITH LEAVING THE COALITION IF THEY ARE DISSATISFIED, HE ADDED.

SUCH A GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE BUSY WITH INTERNAL POLITICKING, HE TOLD PAHANG COMMUNITY LEADERS HERE.

HE SAID SEMANGAT 46 LEADER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WAS BANKING ON HIS PARTY WINNING 40 SEATS, DAP 30 AND PAS 25 TO GIVE THE OPPOSITION 95 SEATS IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED, SUCH A COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE A STRONG BACKBONE PARTY LIKE WHAT UMNO IS TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN). -- MORE
1751MST 30 06 90

D498

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MAHATHIR-OPPOSITION 2 JERANTUT R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE PARTY HAD BEEN THE THRUST OF BN BECAUSE IT WON 83 OF THE 84 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IT CONTESTED IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION.

+SUCH IS UMNO'S STRENGTH THAT WHEN TENGKU RAZALEIGH PULLED OUT 12 MEMBERS WITH HIM WE DID NOT COLLAPSE AND THE BN STILL HAS A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT,+ HE SAID.

+NOTHING CAN SHAKE THE BN GOVERNMENT AS IT BRINGS PEACE AND STABILITY,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ANY COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER TENGKU RAZALEIGH WOULD BE WEAKENED SHOULD PAS AND DAP DECIDE TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+A GOVERNMENT CONSTANTLY UNDER THREAT BY ITS COMPONENT PARTIES CANNOT RULE AS IT ALWAYS LIVES IN FEAR,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1759MST 30 06 90

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MAHATHIR--OPPOSITION 3 JERANTUT R R R

UNDER SUCH A SITUATION, THAT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ENSURE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE, RELIGION AND NATION, HE ADDED.

IN THE CASE OF BN, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FALL EVEN IF A COMPONENT PULLS OUT BECAUSE IT HAS MANY OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING IN SABAH AND SARAWAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BN WOULD REMAIN STRONG EXCEPT IF UMNO WITHDREW FROM THE COALITION.

HE, HOWEVER, STRESSED THAT UMNO AND THE OTHER COMPONENTS HAD ALWAYS COOPERATED TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR BECAUSE IT COULD PROVIDE MORE JOBS COMPARED WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND MINING SECTORS. -- MORE
1818MST 30 06 90

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MAHATHIR--OPPOSITION 4 JERANTUT R R R

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, AN ELECTRONICS FACTORY COULD CREATE MORE JOBS THAN A BIG ESTATE COULD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MINING AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS ALSO COULD NOT GENERATE ENOUGH REVENUE TO MEET THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE, PARTICULARLY AS THE PRICES OF COMMODITIES LIKE RUBBER AND OIL PALM FLUCTUATED.

EARLIER, AT A MEET-THE-PEOPLE SESSION IN KAMPUNG PULAU MANSOK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CRITICISED MTUC LEADERS AND OPPOSITION PARTIES LIKE DAP AND SEMANGAT 46 FOR CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) ISSUE.

ENCIK V. DAVID'S (THE MTUC SECRETARY-GENERAL) STATEMENT THAT HE AND THE CONGRESS WOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT DEFEND MALAYSIA'S GSP STATUS IF THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS CLEARLY SHOWED HE GAVE PRIORITY TO WORKERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER PRESENTED 60 BICYCLES TO LOCAL CHILDREN. HE ALSO VISITED THE \$7 MILLION BATU EMBUN WATER TREATMENT PLANT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN APRIL NEXT YEAR. --

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