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MAHATHIR-STRATEGY R R R

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JERANTUT, JUNE 30, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY OUTLINED THREE FEATURES OF A STRONG PARTY -- HUGE MEMBERSHIP, HIGHLY SPIRITED MEMBERS AND DISCIPLINED APPROACHES.

A PARTY WHICH IS SPIRITED AND HAS MANY MEMBERS WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE IF IT DOES NOT APPLY THE RIGHT STRATEGIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE THE FALL OF MELAKA TO THE PORTUGUESE IN 1511.

HE SAID THE THEN MELAKA SULTANATE, DESPITE OUTNUMBERING THE PORTUGUESE IN TERMS OF SOLDIERS, WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE THE INVADING ARMY USED THE CORRECT STRATEGY.

+UMNO HAD ALWAYS BEEN WINNING BECAUSE OF ITS DISCIPLINED APPROACHES...IT HAS BRANCHES IN THE VILLAGES, DIVISIONS IN PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES, LIAISON COMMITTEES AT STATE LEVEL AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

+AND WHEN THE LEADERSHIP ISSUES DIRECTIVES TO PREPARE FOR AN ELECTION, EVERYONE RIGHT DOWN TO THE KAMPUNG LEVEL WILL BE READY,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING COMMUNITY LEADERS AT THE TOWN HALL HERE. -- MORE

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BY ARMING ITSELF WITH THE THREE FEATURES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PARTY WOULD MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP IN PAHANG AND POSSIBLY IN OTHER STATES AS WELL.

AS FOR UMNO'S ROLE WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN), HE SAID, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PARTY SUBSCRIBED TO THE SEAT-SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE COALITION SET-UP.

THE COOPERATION WHICH UMNO PROVIDES WITHIN THE BN IS IN THE FORM OF OFFERING CERTAIN SEATS IN RETURN FOR VOTES TO UMNO CANDIDATES FROM THE OTHER COMPONENTS, HE ADDED.

+THIS IS ALSO A STRATEGY AS IT WOULD BENEFIT US IF WE SECURE THE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE, INDIANS, IBANS, KADAZANS AND OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO BN'S CHAIRMAN, SAID A WIN BY A CERTAIN COMPONENT PARTY IN A PARTICULAR AREA WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF IT LOSES ELSEWHERE AND THE BN FAILS TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT.-- MORE

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HE SAID PAS MADE A MISTAKE BY NOT COOPERATING WITH UMNO AND REFUSING TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER RACES.

+PAS HAS NOW COMMITTED A MORE SERIOUS ERROR BY JOINING FORCES WITH THE DAP, WHICH IS FIGHTING FOR A SECULAR STATE, AND THE SEMANGAT 46, WHICH IS CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SINGLED OUT TWO +ACHIEVEMENTS+ BY PAS -- IT HAS +REDUCED+ THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS BY BRANDING SOME UMNO MEMBERS AS INFIDELS AND IT HAS SPLIT THE MALAYS BY CREATING THE TWO IMAMS, TWO MOSQUES AND TWO GRAVES ISSUE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, UMNO HAD PROVEN ITS SINCERITY IN PROPAGATING ISLAM BY BUILDING MOSQUES, HOLDING SEMINARS AND SETTING UP ISLAMIC FACULTIES, THE BANK ISLAM, THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES AND THE TABUNG HAJI.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS OF THE PURPOSE OF THEIR JOINING THE PARTY -- THAT IS TO SAFEGUARD THE POSITION OF THE MALAYS, THEIR RELIGION AND THE COUNTRY.

+THE MERE EXISTENCE OF THE SEMANGAT 46 (AN UMNO SPLINTER GROUP) IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT ITS MEMBERS DID NOT UPHOLD PARTY CAUSE,+ HE SAID.

MENTERI BESAR PAHANG TAN SRI KHALIL YAKOB, HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTER DATUK LIM AH LEK, CULTURE AND TOURISM MINISTER DATUK SABBARUDDIN CHIK AND DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK WAN ABU BAKAR WAN MOHAMAD WERE AMONG THE 3,000 PEOPLE PRESENT. -- BERNAMA
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