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JERANTUT, JUNE 30, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD USE DEMOCRACY WISELY TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO REAP BENEFITS FROM IT.

DEMOCRACY COULD DESTROY THE NATION IF THEY USED IT TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT AT RANSOM OR CAUSE INSTABILITY, HE SAID.

THE PEOPLE THEREFORE SHOULD CHOOSE A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN DISCHARGING ITS DUTIES TO LOOK AFTER THEIR INTERESTS, HE TOLD A GATHERING AT KAMPUNG PULAU MANSOK HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LIKENED DEMOCRACY TO A KNIFE WHICH COULD BE USED TO CARVE FRUITS AND CUT MEAT BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT COULD ALSO BE USED TO STAB AND KILL.

HE SAID BECAUSE OF DEMOCRACY, THE PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO ENJOY VARIOUS BENEFITS AND ASKED FOR MORE THINGS AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DREW NEAR.

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MAHATHIR 2 JERANTUT

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT IT WAS AT SUCH TIME THAT THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 WHICH COMPRISED FRUSTRATED LEADERS, WOULD TRY TO MAKE USE OF SIMILARLY DISENCHANTED PEOPLE FOR THEIR OWN ENDS DURING THE ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS SUCH THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE WARY OF INSTIGATIONS BY THE OPPOSITION.

ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMAD ALI, PAHANG MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI KHALIL YAAKOB, 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 PRESENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER ATTENDED A MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL HALL HERE.-- BERNAMA

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