

D659

U E719 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH
BM

BAGAN SERAI, JULY 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED POLITICAL PARTIES CONTESTING IN THE SABAH ELECTION TO REFRAIN FROM RAISING ANTI-FEDERAL ISSUES WHICH HE FEARED COULD GET OUT OF HAND.

HE SAID THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF ISSUES RELATING TO PAROCHIALISM GROWING BEYOND CONTROL AND HAVING UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ENTHUSIASM OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE STATE IN BRINGING UP ANTI-FEDERAL ISSUES TO HARNESS VOTES.

+PERHAPS THEY MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO USE THESE ISSUES BUT THEN THIS WILL MEAN PLAYING WITH FIRE,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS VISIT HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS EASY TO RAISE PAROCHIAL ISSUES, EVEN IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. -- MORE
1952MST 08 07 90

D666

U E721 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 BAGAN SERAI.

HE SAID THAT AT ONE TIME A STATE WENT TO COURT SEEKING TO LEAVE MALAYSIA BUT THE COURT REJECTED THE MOVE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION DID NOT GIVE THE RIGHT TO ANY STATE TO REMOVE ITSELF FROM THE FEDERATION.

ON THE CALL BY A POLITICAL PARTY; AS STATED IN ITS MANIFESTO, FOR A REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA), HE SAID THE MATTER SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE AN ELECTION ISSUE. PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) HAD CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE ISA IN ITS MANIFESTO.

HE SAID IT WAS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE PARTY HAD NEVER RAISED THE QUESTION OF REVIEWING THE ACT AT MEETINGS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE ACT IT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE ACT WOULD BE REPEALED. -- MORE
2004MST 08 07 90

D671

U E722 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 BAGAN SERAI

+A REVIEW OF THE ACT MAY REVEAL THAT IT HAS TO BE RETAINED OR EVEN STRENGTHENED,+ HE SAID.

ON SECURITY IN SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER, SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE SITUATION THERE.

+IF WE FEEL THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION THERE IS THREATENED, WE WILL SEND ADDITIONAL SECURITY FORCES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL IN THE STATE DURING POLLING, WHICH IS ON JULY 16 AND 17, TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF SABAH COULD VOTE WITHOUT FEAR OF INTIMIDATION.

ON HIS VISITS TO THE STATES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE WAS SPREADING THE MESSAGE THAT THE ACTUAL REASON FOR A GENERAL ELECTION WAS TO ESTABLISH A STRONG GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE STABILITY OF THE NATION. -- MORE

2014MST 08 07 90

D675

U E723 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 4 BAGAN SERAI

THEREFORE, HE SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT EVERY UMNO MEMBER GAVE PRIORITY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY RATHER THAN PERSONAL INTERESTS.

HE SAID IT WAS SELF-INTEREST THAT HAD CREATED A SPLINTER GROUP IN THE PARTY WHICH HAD LED TO THE MALAYS WILLING TO DESTROY THE PARTY.

+THIS IS A DEVIATION FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF UMNO'S STRUGGLE. THIS EXPLANATION IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WHEN FACED WITH THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION THERE WILL BE MEMBERS WHO WILL BE DISSATISFIED WITH THIS AND THAT,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER JOINED A GOTONG-ROYONG TO BUILD A HOUSE UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE VERY POOR IN KAMPUNG PARIT HAJI ISMAIL HERE.

HE ALSO HELD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH LOCAL UMNO LEADERS. --

BERNAMA

2031MST 08 07 90