

U E69& AAE .
MAHATHIR-POLLS RRR
BM

BAGAN SERAI, JULY 8, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) IS NOT AFRAID TO BE JUDGED BY THE PEOPLE AND TO FACE THE GENERAL ELECTION SOON. THE BN WOULD CONTINUE TO UPHOLD PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY ALTHOUGH MANY COUNTRIES THAT GAINED INDEPENDENCE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS MALAYSIA HAD SHIFTED TO ONE-PARTY SYSTEM OF RULE.

ALTHOUGH DEMOCRACY IS DIFFICULT TO PRACTISE COMPARED TO A ONE-PARTY SYSTEM, MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO UPHOLD A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM BECAUSE THE BN WAS NOT GREEDY FOR POWER, HE TOLD A GATHERING AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH BAGAN SERAI FIELD HERE.

IN FACT THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES HAD RECENTLY APPROVED THE FORMATION OF SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOWED OPPOSITION-RUN NEWSPAPERS TO BE PUBLISHED, HE SAID.

+WE ARE NOT AFRAID LIKE THE PARTY WHICH BOYCOTTS NEWSPAPERS SO THAT ITS FOLLOWERS WILL ONLY LISTEN TO ITS VIEWS,+ HE SAID.-- MORE
1830MST 08 07 90

IN ITEM E701, MAHATHIR-POLLS 2 BAGAN SERAI, PLEASE READ IN SECOND PARA.... WHICH OPENLY, RPT OPENLY, NOT OPENEDLY AS SENT.

MAHATHIR-POLLS 2 BAGAN SERAI RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS SUPPORTERS SHOULD ASK WHETHER THEIR LEADERS HAD HOODWINKED THEM AND DEVIATED FROM THE PARTY'S ORIGINAL CAUSE.

THEY SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER PAS WAS STILL FIGHTING FOR AN ISLAMIC STATE WHEN THEIR LEADERS HAD COOPERATED WITH THE DAP WHICH OPENLY REJECTED SUCH AN IDEA, HE SAID.

+ASK YOUR CONSCIENCE WHETHER PAS LEADERS SUCH AS HAJI HADI AWANG AND FADZIL NOR ARE STILL UPHOLDING THE PARTY'S IDEALS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS LEADERS TOO HAD DEVIATED FROM THE PARTY'S CAUSE BY ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE INFLUENCED BY A +PARAMOUNT+ LEADER OF SEMANGAT 46+.

HE SAID ONCE PAS LEADERS HAD LABELLED UMNO MEMBERS AS INFIDELS FOR WORKING WITH NON-MUSLIMS IN MCA MCA, GERAKAN AND MIC. --MORE
1934MST 08 07 90

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R E710 REPEAT AAE
MAHATHIR-POLLS 3 BAGAN SERAI RRR

UMNO HAD COOPERATED WITH THESE PARTIES BECAUSE THEY HAD NO ANIMOSITY AGAINST THE MALAYS AND ISLAM; UNLIKE DAP WHICH HAD OPENLY WANTED A SECULAR RULE; HE SAID.

PAS LEADERS, HE SAID, WERE TAKEN IN BY THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER WHO CLAIMED THEY COULD SET UP A GOVERNMENT BY FORMING THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH (APU)-DAP ALLIANCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER HAD CLAIMED THEY COULD FORM THE GOVERNMENT AS THEY COULD WIN A TOTAL OF 95 SEATS -- 40 BY SEMANGAT ,PAS 25 AND DAP 30.

HE SAID SECURING THAT NUMBER OF SEATS COULD NOT GUARANTEE A STRONG GOVERNMENT AS PARTIES IN THE ALLIANCE WERE BOUND TO CAUSE SPLIT AMONG THEMSELVES TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RUN THE COUNTRY WELL LET ALONE ENSURE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND STABILITY.-- MORE
1950MST 08 07 90

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MAHATHIR-POLLS 4 BAGAN SERAI RRR

THE COUNTRY NEEDED A STRONG GOVERNMENT WHICH ENJOYED TWO-THIRD MAJORITY SO THAT IT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO ACT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT COMMUNAL RIOTS COULD RECUR IF THE COUNTRY WAS RUN BY A WEAK GOVERNMENT.

+I WILL NOT APOLOGISE TO ANYONE FOR RECALLING THE MAY 13 INCIDENT BECAUSE I AM NOT OUT TO INTIMIDATE THE PEOPLE+, HE SAID.

+BUT IT CAN RECUR IF WE FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A STRONG GOVERNMENT TO AVERT SUCH INCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR UNION LEADERS WHO HAD LOBBIED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) BENEFITS FROM MALAYSIA TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

+WHAT IS THERE TO DISCUSS. ACTUALLY THEY WANT TO SET CONDITIONS ON THE GOVERNMENT JUST TO GAIN POWER+, HE SAID.

HE SAID UNION LEADERS FROM THE DAP WERE NOW IN A FIX BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE ALREADY AWARE OF GSP BENEFITS FOR WORKERS.-- BERNAMA
1928MST 08 07 90