

R E892 AAE  
MAHATHIR-KELANTAN  
A NEWS ANALYSIS BY ABDUL HALIM TAIB  
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KOTA BAHARU, JULY 22, (BERNAMA) -- ONE CONCLUSION TO BE DERIVED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S THREE CONSECUTIVE VISITS TO KELANTAN OVER THE LAST FORTNIGHT IS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS VERY SERIOUS INDEED ABOUT BRINGING DEVELOPMENT TO THE STATE.

THE IMPACT THE VISITS HAVE ON THE PEOPLE IS THAT THEY NOW LOOK UPON DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AS A VERY AMIABLE PERSON WHO IS FULLY AWARE OF WHAT THE STATE REQUIRES, OBSERVERS SAID.

HIS VISITS WERE NOT TO FISH FOR VOTES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BUT TO GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE AND THEIR PROBLEMS BETTER, THE OBSERVERS SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD SAID: +WE VISIT ALL THE PLACES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND DO NOT CONSIDER SOME AREAS AS OPPOSITION STRONGHOLDS+.

MOST INTERESTINGLY, OBSERVERS SAID, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD, DURING ONE OF THE VISITS, CLEARED THE AIR ABOUT ALLEGED RIFT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE KELANTAN ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

HIS STATEMENT THAT ALL IS WELL BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE KELANTAN PALACE HAD NAILED FOR GOOD WIDESPREAD SPECULATIONS OF STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN KUALA LUMPUR AND THE ISTANA.-- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-KELANTAN 2 KOTA BAHARU (ANALYSIS)

THE STATEMENT HAD, ON ONE HAND, MADE THOSE WHO HAD WISHED FOR A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ISTANA VERY UNEASY.

ON THE OTHER, TO THE KELANTAN PEOPLE WHO ARE ADMITTEDLY LAGGING BEHIND IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE STATEMENT AUGURED WELL FOR THE STATE'S FUTURE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID:+ I DO NOT SEE ANY INFLUENCE FROM THE ISTANA. WHAT I SEE IS A PERSON WHO IS CLEVER IN MAKING USE OF ALL OTHERS FOR HIS OWN ENDS+.

OBSERVERS SAID UMNO, THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE AT LARGE HAD GAINED FROM THE VISITS.

DURING HIS VISIT LAST JUNE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, WAS BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PARTY IN THE STATE.

HE MET GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO HAVE INSIGHT OF THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY ABOUT POVERTY BESIDES VISITING REMOTE AREAS IN THE STATE.

AT THE PLACES HE VISITED THEN, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE KELANTAN PEOPLE. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-KELANTAN 3 KOTA BAHARU (ANALYSIS)

THE PRIME MINISTER FOCUSED ATTENTION TO THE RELATIVELY BACKWARD PASIR MAS AREA WHERE THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS ARE SAID TO BE DIVIDED EVEN AMONG UMNO MEMBERS.

MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF, WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE ENCOURAGING AND UNEXPECTED RESPONSE FROM THE PEOPLE IN PASIR MAS IN THE LIGHT OF SPECULATIONS OF THEIR UNSUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT.

IN FACT, AFTER HE JOINED THEM IN A GOTONG ROYONG TO BUILD A BRIDGE IN KAMPUNG PECAH PALAS IN THE PASIR MAS PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, ABOUT 200 FORMER PAS AND SEMANGAT 46 MEMBERS SUBMITTED APPLICATION FORMS TO JOIN UMNO.

THEY WERE LATER FOLLOWED BY 1,000 FORMER PAS AND HAMIM MEMBERS AND LEADERS IN KAMPUNG MERANTI ALSO IN THE SAME CONSTITUENCY.

A FORMER PENGHULU THERE YUSOF AWANG, 48, HANDED OVER TO THE PRIME MINISTER THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR UMNO MEMBERSHIP.

IN HIS SPEECH ON RECEIVING THE APPLICATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OCCASSION PROVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO GET SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE ONCE AGAINST UMNO.-- MORE

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MAHATHIR-KELANTAN 4 KOTA BAHARU (ANALYSIS)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID OF LATE MORE PAS MEMBERS WERE SUPPORTING THE BN AS THEY HAD REALISED THAT PAS HAD STRAYED FROM ITS ORIGINAL CAUSE AND THAT THEY WERE DECEIVED BY THE PARTY LEADERS WHO COLLABORATED WITH THE DAP.

ENCIK YUSOF, WHO WAS FORMERLY A PAS COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR MERANTI, SAID HE CHOSE UMNO AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS WITH PAS BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN THAT WHILE PAS ONLY TALKED ABOUT UPHOLDING AND PROPAGATING ISLAM, THE GOVERNMENT UNDER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ALREADY IMPLEMENTED THEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE AT VARIOUS FUNCTIONS DURING THE VISITS HAD STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD BE UNITED ALTHOUGH THEY HAD DIVERGENT POLITICAL VIEWS.

THEY SHOULD NOT LET DIFFERENCES SEPARATE THEM AND UNDERMINE THE BOND BETWEEN THEM IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINES.

+POLITICAL DIFFERENCES SHOULD ONLY BE CONFINED TO GENERAL ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS EVIDENT THAT FROM THE VISITS, THE KELANTANESE DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS NOT MERE LIP-SERVICE BUT BY THEIR LARGE PRESENCE AT RALLIES.

A AGED MAN MET AT ONE OF THE RALLIES BEST SUMMED UP THE IMPACT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KELANTAN BY SAYING THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD BROUGHT NEW HOPES TO THE STATE.

THE OLD MAN SAID:+ HIS SINCERITY AS PRIME MINISTER TO SEE THAT ALL THE PEOPLE ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT IS UNQUESTIONABLE.+

-- BERNAMA

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