

0390

R E819 AAE
MAHAHATHIR-EXTREMIST
BM

ALOR SETAR, AUG 23 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TONIGHT THE CONCEPT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, WHICH COMFRISES PARTIES WITH MODERATE STAND, IS A FACTOR THAT ENSURES PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES WERE NOT EXTREMISTS AND EACH PARTY NOT ONLY CARED FOR THE INTEREST OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES BUT THAT OF ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

IF THERE HAD BEEN NO COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES, MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BE PEACEFUL AND MIGHT EVEN BECOME CHAOTIC LIKE SOME OTHER MULTIRACIAL COUNTRIES, HE SAID AT A DINNER OF THE KEDAH AND PERLIS CHINESE ASSEMBLY HERE.

AMONG THE 1,600 PEOPLE PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAHALI, HENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK.

CITING UMNO AS AN EXAMPLE! DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UHNO PRESIDENT9 SAID- ALTHOUGH THE PARTY FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS, IT ALSO DID NOT FORGET THE LOT OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES. -- MORE

0017MST 24 08 90

0391

R E820 AAE
MAHAHATHIR-EXTREMIST 2 ALOR SETAR

HE SAID THAT WHEN MALAYSIA ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE, THE BRITISH SAID THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE PEACEFUL AND WOULD FALL BECAUSE ALL THE COMMUNITIES WOULD FIGHT FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

HOWEVER, THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF THE THEN ALLIANCE AND THE BN NOW, IT HAD BEEN PROVEN THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE AND MALAYSIA HAD CONTINUED TO PROGRESS AND ENJOY PEACE.

THE PEACE ENJOYED ALL THIS WHILE HAD ENABLED THE COUNTRY TO PROGRESS FURTHER AND IT NOW RANKED FIFTH AMONG THE 130 DEVELOPING NATIONS IN THE WORLD, HE SAID.

URGING THE PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE BN, HE REMINDED THEM OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A STRONG GOVERNMENT WITH A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY TO ENABLE IT TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ANY PARTIES THAT CHALLENGED IT WITHOUT ANY BASIS.

DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN, IN HIS SPEECH, SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CHINESE IN KEDAH WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO BN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP. -- BERNAMA

0019MST 2 4 08 90