

D858

R E855 AAE
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 4 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEFEAT OF CANDIDATES FROM THE RULING PARTY IN ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY PROVED THAT DEMOCRACY IS ALIVE IN MALAYSIA, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS DIFFERENT FROM SOME COUNTRIES WHERE ONLY CANDIDATES FROM THE RULING PARTY WON THE ELECTIONS.

HE SAID THAT IN MALAYSIA, CANDIDATES FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD WON SEATS IN PAST ELECTIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAD EVEN BEEN ABLE TO FORM A STATE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID AT A DINNER HELD FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MASS MEDIA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE EARLY DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND THE STATE ASSEMBLIES WAS ALSO PROOF THAT DEMOCRACY FLOURISHED IN THE COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME TIME YET BEFORE THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT EXPIRED, PARLIAMENT AND THE STATE ASSEMBLIES WERE DISSOLVED EARLIER AND THIS THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAD DONE SINCE SEVERAL GENERAL ELECTIONS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

0012MST 05 10 90

D859

R E856 AAE
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO CHAIRED A MEETING OF HEADS OF COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BN HERE TODAY, HAS ANNOUNCED THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE ASSEMBLIES TOMORROW.

ON THE MASS MEDIA, HE SAID THAT ALLEGATIONS BY SOME GROUPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CURBED THE PRESS IN THE COUNTRY WERE NOT TRUE, ADDING THAT THIS HAD BEEN PROVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS WHICH CARRIED ARTICLES CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE +THE ROCKET+, AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DAP.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH +THE ROCKET+ WAS A POLITICAL PARTY PUBLICATION AND FOR LIMITED CIRCULATION AMONG MEMBERS ONLY, COPIES OF THE NEWSPAPER WERE SOLD TO THE PUBLIC.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT COULD PUT A STOP TO IT, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT DO SO, PROVING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS LIBERAL AND ALLOWED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

HE SAID THAT EVEN IN COUNTRIES IN THE WEST LIKE BRITAIN THERE WERE NEWSPAPERS INCLINED TOWARDS A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY BUT NONE OF THEM CLAIMED THAT THE NEWSPAPER CONCERNED WAS BEING CURBED BY A CERTAIN AUTHORITY.

ON THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD BE RETURNED TO POWER. -- BERNAMA
0021MST 05 10 90