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MAHATHIR - RAIS  
BM

SEREMBAN, OCT 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ACCUSED PARTI SEMANGAT 46 DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK RAIS YATIM OF BEING UNGRATEFUL TO UMNO WHICH HAD HELPED HIM TO RISE IN PUBLIC LIFE.

IT WAS UMNO THAT PROVIDED HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME NEGERI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR AND A FEDERAL CABINET MINISTER, HE SAID.

+IF NOT FOR UMNO, PEOPLE WILL NOT KNOW HIM BUT NOW HE IS BEING UNGRATEFUL TO UMNO,+ HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING TO BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES AND BN ELECTION WORKERS HERE.

+I AM THE ONE WHO HELPED HIM TO GO UP BUT TODAY HE IS BITING OUR HANDS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

DATUK RAIS, IN FACT, SHOULD ABIDE BY THE MAJORITY DECISION IN UMNO BUT HE HAD NOW JOINED SEMANGAT 46 IN THE BELIEF THAT HE COULD GET SUPPORT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, ADVISED VOTERS IN JELEBU NOT TO ELECT SUCH PEOPLE FOR IN THE END THEY WOULD BECOME THE VICTIMS INGRATITUDE. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR - RAIS 2 SEREMBAN

DATUK RAIS, WHO IS SEEKING RE-ELECTION IN THE JELEBU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, IS FACING LT KOL (RTD) IBRAHIM SAREH OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL. HE IS ALSO CONTESTING THE STATE SEAT OF BATU KIKIR WHERE THE BN HAD FIELDDED ENCIK LILAH YASIN.

ASKED BY REPORTERS ABOUT DATUK RAIS' SUGGESTION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DEBATE WITH HIM OVER TV ON THE BN AND OPPOSITION MANIFESTOES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN THE REQUEST FOR ACCORDING TO HIM, DATUK RAIS MADE THE PROPOSAL TO SERVE HIS OWN INTERESTS.

+I MYSELF DO NOT TAKE TOO MUCH OF TV TIME... EXCEPT FOR INTERVIEWS SUCH AS THIS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE OPPOSITION LEADERS ONLY WANTED PRESS FREEDOM SO LONG AS THEY COULD USE THE PRESS TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS BUT THEN THEY DID NOT WANT TO GIVE INTERVIEWS TO CERTAIN PAPERS.

EXPRESSING SURPRISE OVER THE OPPOSITION ATTITUDE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +FOR INSTANCE I HEAR THAT TV3 WAS NOT ALLOWED TO RECORD THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER'S VOICE. BUT THIS IS THE PERSON WHO CONDEMNS US FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT GIVING PRESS FREEDOM.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PRESS FREEDOM MEANT THERE WERE NEWSPAPERS WHICH WERE PRO OR AGAINST ONE PARTY BUT THE OPPOSITION ONLY WANTED FREEDOM FOR NEWSPAPERS WHICH WERE ALIGNED TO IT.

+THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO USUALLY BURN NEWSPAPERS. IF POSSIBLE THEY WILL ALSO WANT TO BURN THE TV.+ -- BERNAMA  
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