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MAHATHIR-EXTREMIST

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ALOR SETAR, OCT 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAS NO PLACE FOR RACIAL EXTREMIST GROUPS THAT CAN JEOPARDISE THE COOPERATION AMONG THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

+WE NEED MODERATION AND COMPROMISE TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY IS CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER THAT IS FAIR TO ALL THE RACES,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH HOSBA, 30KM FROM HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EXTREMISM AND GIVING PRIORITY TO THE WISHES OF ONLY ONE RACE WAS WERE NOT IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS RACES INCLUDING THE MINORITY GROUPS WHICH HAD DIFFERING NEEDS.

+BUT COMPROMISE DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO SELL OUT THE DIGNITY OF THE RACE AND RELIGION JUST TO GET VOTES,+ HE SAID IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE +COOPERATION+ BETWEEN SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS).

HE ADDED: +DON'T LET US GO TO THE EXTENT OF SETTING ASIDE RELIGION AND THE DIGNITY OF THE RACE. WE CANNOT DO THAT BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IN THE HOPE OF BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.+ -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE COOPERATION OF ALL THE RACES TO BE THE BASIS OF PEACE IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE IF THERE WAS CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY, NO ONE WOULD BENEFIT AND IN THE END THE PEOPLE WOULD BE THE LOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TODAY, HE SAID, ENSURED THAT FAIRNESS WAS GIVEN PRIORITY IN ALL MATTERS.

+IN THIS RESPECT WE WANT TO REMIND THE PEOPLE THAT THE MALAYS ARE NOT GREEDY BECAUSE WE GAVE SEVERAL PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE SEATS TO NON-MALAY CANDIDATES ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT THESE AREAS HAVE A MALAY MAJORITY,+ HE SAID.

IF THE BN DID NOT ACT FAIRLY, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CHINESE AND INDIAN CANDIDATES TO GET A CHANCE TO CONTEST AND THERE WOULD BE NO REPRESENTATION FROM THEM IN THE CABINET SET UP IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION FOR THE GOOD OF ALL RACES, HE SAID.

ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND SEVERAL OPPOSITION PARTIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE PACT IS ONLY FOR THE ELECTION AND IF CHOSEN, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RULE FAIRLY BECAUSE EACH EXTERMIST PARTY ONLY CARES FOR THE INTEREST OF A PARTICULAR RACE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ARAB-MALAYSIA DEVELOPMENT BANK CHAIRMAN TAN SRI AZMAN HASHIM HAD DONATED \$300,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOSBA MOSQUE HERE TO REPLACE THE OLD MOSQUE. --

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