

D160

U E272 AAE

MAHATHIR-USNO R'R'R'

BM

KOTA KINABALU, JAN 18⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED SABAHANS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF HARPING ON RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL ISSUES FOR POLITICAL GAIN.

+SABAH IS A MULTI-RACIAL AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS STATE AND TO HARP ON RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS IS LIKE LIGHTING A FIRE WHICH CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE 22ND USNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) CHAIRMAN, ADVISED POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE STATE TO REFRAIN FROM FANNING SUCH SENTIMENTS.

HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE WERE SOME POLITICAL LEADERS IN SABAH WHO CREATED AN ANTI-MALAYSIA FEELING TO SECURE POWER AND WEALTH FOR THEMSELVES.

+SABAH HAS BEEN VERY BACKWARD DURING COLONIAL RULE. THERE WERE NO BUILDINGS LIKE THOSE FOUND TODAY, THERE WERE NO GOOD ROADS AND THERE WAS NO AIRPORT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1749MST 18 01 90

D165

U E283 AAE

MAHATHIR-USNO 2 KOTA KINABALU R'R'R'

HE ADDED: +IN FACT, THERE WERE NO EDUCATED SABAHANS, NONE WITH THE TITLE OF DOCTOR. THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF THEM GOING ABROAD FOR STUDIES.

+REGRETTABLY, AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER MANY HAD BEGUN TO ENJOY HIGHER EDUCATION, THERE ARE DOCTORS WHO FORGET THE BENEFITS OF GAINING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH MALAYSIA AND FANNED ANTI-MALAYSIA FEELINGS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAVOURED CERTAIN STATES.

HE SAID THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PORTRAYING SUCH AN IDEA SHOULD REALISE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS HELPING ALL STATE GOVERNMENTS ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT.

POOR STATES AND THOSE BADLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE WERE NATURALLY GIVEN BIGGER ALLOCATIONS COMPARED TO THE RICHER STATES, HE ADDED. -- MORE

1800MST 18 01 90

U E293 AAE

MAHATHIR-USNO 3 KOTA KINABALU R'R'R'

HE SAID: +IF THE RICHER STATES ARE DISSATISFIED AND WANT THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE, THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN AND SAFEGUARD SUCH AN INDEPENDENCE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY WOULD BE WEAKENED AND POSSIBLY SPLIT IF STATES ONLY THOUGHT OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

ON CHARGES THAT SABAHANS WERE NOT GIVEN THE CHANCE TO HOLD FEDERAL POSTS AND +OUTSIDERS+ WERE HOLDING KEY POSITIONS IN THE STATE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +WE WANT SABAH OFFICERS TO SERVE IN ALL STATES AND LIKEWISE, OFFICERS FROM THE OTHER STATES TO SERVE IN SABAH.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO DENIED CHARGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRACTICED NEPOTISM WHILE UPHOLDING THE COUNTRY'S LAWS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD TO ENSURE THE LAWS ARE OBSERVED.

+WE HAVE TAKEN LEGAL ACTION EVEN AGAINST PEOPLE ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. THERE IS A LEADER OF A BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTY WHO HAS BEEN JAILED,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1821MST 18 01 90

B E305 AAE

MAHATHIR-USNO 4 KOTA KINABALU R'R'R'

HE SAID: +UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE UNDER INVESTIGATION WHO CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING WITH A POLITICAL MOTIVE.

+THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE VERY RICH WHEREAS AT ONE TIME THEY WERE NOT. THE RICH MUST PAY TAX. IF THEY REFUSE, INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN WHERE THE WEALTH CAME FROM.+

IF A CRIME WAS COMMITTED, THE GOVERNMENT MUST INVESTIGATE AND TAKE LEGAL ACTION AND THIS APPLIED NOT ONLY TO SABAHANS BUT ALL MALAYSIANS, HE ADDED.

+THERE IS NO DOUBLE STANDARD OR ANY POLITICAL MOTIVE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT PROGRESS TO THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE.

HE ADDED: +THE BN CONCEPT IS SPECIAL BECAUSE NO OTHER COUNTRY PRACTICES THE SYSTEM. COALITION GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE FORMED ONLY AFTER THEIR ELECTIONS, WHEN NONE OF THE PARTIES CAN SECURE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT.

+UNDER THE BN CONCEPT, DEMOCRACY IS ALIVE AND THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHO THEY LIKE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITHOUT THE COOPERATION FOUND IN THE BN, NONE OF THE PARTIES CAN COME UP WITH ENOUGH SEATS TO FORM A STRONG AND STABLE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE

1901MST 18 01 90

B E312 AAE

MAHATHIR-USNO 5 KOTA KINABALU R'R'R'

IN SABAH AND SARAWAK TOO, THERE IS NO PARTY WHICH CAN WIN SUFFICIENT SEATS TO FORM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXCEPT THROUGH THE BN CONCEPT OF GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT A WEAK GOVERNMENT WOULD INVITE ATTEMPTS BY DISSATISFIED PEOPLE TO TOPPLE IT.

+IT WILL RESULT IN THE PEOPLE LOSING THEIR RIGHTS AND THIS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY THE PEOPLE OF SABAH AND ALSO ALL MALAYSIANS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO USNO FOR SUBSCRIBING TO THE BN CONCEPT AND TO DEMOCRACY.

HE SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT USNO DID NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO JUST ONE COMMUNITY AND DID NOT CHAMPION THE INTEREST OF A SINGLE RELIGION.

+I HOPE USNO WILL CONTINUE WITH THIS STAND SO THAT SABAHANS CAN FEEL SECURE UNDER IT AND THE BN,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS CONTINUOUSLY GREETED WITH APPLAUSE, PARTICULARLY WHEN HE SPOKE ON CURRENT ISSUES IN THE STATE.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WAS GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE MUIS COMPLEX TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, ENERGY, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU AND INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT.

EXCEPT FOR THE RULING PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS), THE OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BN WERE REPRESENTED AT THE OPENING. --

BERNAMA

1910MST 18 01 90