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MAHATHIR FEARS THE MALAYS WILL BE DOMINATED ONCE AGAIN

Mahathir-Umno (Corruption)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Ret-nama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir ~~Mohamed~~ today expressed concern that the Malays will once again fall under the yoke of domination as in the days of colonial rule if corruption, abuse of power and selfishness are left unchecked.

+Corruption and abuse of power, including the power to vote, bribery and support peddling are! dirty and hideous and will bring about disaster to the race, religion and country, +he said when opening the Umno general assembly 1991 at the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that the ill effects of corruption did not depend on the extent of the act because once the habit had been cultivated, it would eventually cause the downfall of the race.

+Just as corruption and abuse of power once resulted in the Malay states being ruled by foreigners and the Malays being dominated by them, the habit to abuse whatever power at any level will hinder and retard their success, +he added. -- more

♥08/11/11-13MST

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Mahathir-Umno (Corruption) 2 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir cited the case of a former Finance Minister as an example of how position and power had been abused for self interest to seek personal popularity within the party in the hope of occupying a higher position of that of Prime Minister.

He said that the former Finance Minister had even pledged \$3,000 million to the Selangor government and a banking licence in return for support from the Umno delegates from the state for a certain post in the Supreme Council.

The former Finance Minister had also, without any hesitation, given an on-the-spot grant+, and licences to operate finance companies to Malay chambers of commerce in every state to popularise himself, he added.

+All sorts of other powers of the Finance Ministry had been utilised by him merely to gain support for himself in the contest to wrest the highest post in Umno, +he said.

He said that such an ugly practice should be looked upon with distaste and rejected but, unfortunately, there were still people who accept and subscribe to this approach. They included people in the government and party leaders, he added. -- more

♥08/11/10-55MST

CNS0149

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Besides the Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also cited the cases of how certain people became rich as a result of the New Economic Policy by using money to acquire influence to seek a place in the party at branch and divisional levels.

These people who secured positions in state-owned companies also used their posts and earnings to gain support and position.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also blamed some of the ordinary citizens for not using their power to vote to elect a leader and party that could bring "progress to the nation but instead to seek certain things for themselves.

+Like in the days under the administration of the Malay rulers, many people now place self interest above the race and country,+ he said.

He added that what had happened differed from the days of the independence fighters like Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Dr Ismail and Tun Sat-don Jubir who struggled for the race, religion and homeland. -- more

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CNS0152

UPE 08-11 00170 EA775

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Referring to colonial history, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded that the British did not seize the Malay states through battle but had on the other hand been invited because the Malay rulers at that time were too weak to govern effectively.

He said at that time several aristocrats were at the helm of the Malay states and regarded the states as their own and, thus, spent the revenue as they wished.

He added: +The state was regarded as a dairy cattle that could be milked to quench their own thirst and not developed to become viable, strong and secure.

+There were frequent struggles for power within the royal family because the person in power would secure gains for himself. For that purpose, the assistance of a foreign party had to be sought and, eventually, the Malay states were inundated with foreign soldiers who indirectly proceed to rule the provinces concerned.+ -- Rernama

♥08/11/11-52MST