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Mahathir - UMNO

PRESERVE UNITY AND FAMILY SPIRIT IN UMNO, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said unity and family spirit in the party should be preserved so that UMNO can serve as a vehicle for the people to realise the national objective of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

Any misunderstanding and unhealthy competition for post.; that could weaken UMNO should be avoided and party interests be put first, he said.

+Our efforts to strengthen the party and remain in power will be undermined if we are divided and use dirty means to fight each other for positions, + the Prime Minister said in a message in the 1991 UMNO Annual Report.

It would be tabled at this year's UMNO general assembly scheduled for four days from Thursday.

Copies of the message were distributed by UMNO secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat at a press conference here today.

Dr Mahathir said it would be pointless for UMNO members to fight for positions if eventually the party itself would lose power. . . more

▼02/11/19-42MST

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Mahathir - UMNO 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said history had proven that UMNO could not be threatened externally but could be weakened from within.

+UMNO leaders and members at all levels are duty-bound to ensure that the party remains in power as we still have a long struggle ahead. We must continue fighting for party and national objectives with greater determination in order to remain in power, + he said.

According to Dr Mahathir, problems faced by the party now were never encountered by UMNO members in past years. They were brought about by rapid changes with far-ranging implications especially economic effects .

At a time when Malaysia was moving -fast towards becoming an industrialised nation and required larger markets , the superpowers such as the United States and Western Europe were imposing all kinds of restrictions to protect their own markets.

+The Western powers tie political issues to economic and free trade issues and impose values, which they themselves created, on how we should look after our environment and manage our natural resources.

+Economic aid to Third World countries would be stopped if their human rights record runs against the values practised in the West, + he said. -- more

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Mahathir - UMNO 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said on the international front, the collapse of the communist system and the Soviet empire left the Americans virtually in monopoly of the world's military might.

This situation had now created new tensions in international relations, he said.

According to Dr Mahathir the United Nations and its Security Council, were dictated by the superpowers and no longer reflected global changes that had taken place after the Second World War,

While world peace has yet to prevail, new crises have erupted such as the ethnic war in Bosnia where Muslims were brutally annihilated, the famine in Somalia and the continuing conflict in Palestine, he said.

Dr Mahathir said as a developing nation Malaysia had to be mindful of these developments and frank in making known its views and stance on political, economic and issues detrimental to her interest, regional prosperity and the interests of the Third World. -- Bernama

▼02/11/20-01MST