

RPE 06-11 00202 EA428

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Mahathir-Politics

DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE, MAHATHIR WARNS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned certain groups not to play with fire by working with foreigners to violate Malaysia's independence,

Calling them traitors, he firmly stated: +We will not allow anyone to disunite our country and we will defend our freedom and rights.+

He said it was possible that influenced by the trend in the emergence of new states (as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet bloc) these people wanted to do the same thing in Malaysia although they tried to deny it.

+But, by calling for a review of the relationship between the Federal and state governments, calling for a referendum and making plans to take over the role of security, does this not show an attempt to break away from Malaysia? he asked, when opening the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here,

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said Malaysia is a country of peace which should not be threatened by fanning the fire; of communalism and statehood. -- more

▼06/11/12-57MST

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+Once rational thinking is replaced with emotion, it would be very difficult for those who arouse such feelings to calm down the situation,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir said these people thought that the foreigners would defend their actions and they tell of the supposed Federal government persecution because they are Christians.

He added; +They think we will not take action in the belief that we are afraid of their friends overseas.

+I want to advise them that those friends of theirs who claim to be the champions of the freedom and rights of the minority no longer have any credibility.

+They claim the right to interfere in the affairs of any country where human rights is not respected. But what do we see in Bosnia?+

He said human rights were being violated so cruelly and openly in Bosnia but the so-called champions refused to take any effective action and merely say +Don't, don't+. while thousands of Muslims and Christian Croats were murdered. -- more

▼06/11/13-00MST

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If Barisan Nasional was unable to rule any state in Malaysia, it was alright and we accept the democratic decision of the people, he added/

But, let not anyone or any state try to threaten the federation. The Federal government's responsibility is clear, that is, it will defend the federation and the independence of the country by whatever means, he said.

Turning to democracy within Umno, Dr Mahathir said it was an instrument and method of administration more able to give justice to the people than other systems.

The declaration of Umno as unlawful following the scramble for party posts in 1987 should serve as a lesson of the implication; of the abuse and misunderstanding of democracy, he added.

He said he was inclined to say that Umno members had learnt the lesson of the 1987 situation but the fact was there were those who have yet to do so.

For the elections in the branches and divisions, unhealthy campaigns were conducted and government facilities were sometimes used to obtain support for themselves, he added. -- more

06/11/13-19MST

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Dr Mahathir revealed that poison pen letters containing falsehoods and party secrets were distributed, books were published to run down certain leaders and huge sums of money spent to get support.

+I wish to remind that if there is an over obsession to get positions in the party, they party will be destroyed,+ he said.

He added that if the contest for posts was too hot, success would have no meaning and others would derive the benefits.

He wanted party members to give- priority to Umno and not,-to certain people.

Touching on Constitutional Monarchy, Dr Mahathir reiterated that only Umno, 'among Malay political parties, was, firm in supporting the system of monarchic rule.'

He said: +We chose the system of Constitutional Monarchy because we were concerned that if the system of full monarchic rule was chosen,, the powers would be abused and, eventually, the people 'will rebel and the system replaced by a republic. -- more

♥06/11/13-44MST

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*If we- criticise the behaviour of any Ruler, it is to put a stop to such unsettling behaviour and, consequently, support for the system of monarchy, will not be jeopardised. +

Dr Mahathir also reminded the Malays that they should not depend on political power forever to achieve progress.

Political power was merely a crutch for the crippled in other areas and +those who use a crutch all the time will become weaker because their limbs are not fully used and they will lose their strength+.

*Crutches are only useful and should be used to overcome a temporary weakness,+ he said.

He added that the crutches should be discarded and the Malays must stand on their own feet because crutches could break as had happened in 1987' when -their political power was nearly lost because of the greed for power among the Malays themselves.

+Can we ensure that such greed for power does not recur? Can we be certain that this time the crutch of the Malays will not break and be lost?+ he asked. -- Bernama

♥06/11/13-46MST