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Mahathir-Leaders

AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL POLITICS AFTER SUPPRESSION OF THE ECONOMY AND FINANCES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the people especially Umno members should fully understand the powers behind the attack of the Ringgit and the stock market and be united to ensure political stability to overcome the problem.

He said that the attackers do not only intend to suppress the national economy and finances but also to determine the leadership of the country.

"In countries where they are able to exert great pressure their power is not confined to the economic and financial areas alone. They intend to control politics too and to determine who should lead that country," he said in his policy speech at the 52nd Umno general assembly here.

"An attempt to change leaders in Malaysia had taken place before when leaders were alleged to be anti-Jews," said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, referring to allegations that he had made statements against the Jews at a rally in Terengganu last year.

He said that they then alleged that current leaders were obstacles to efforts at economic revival and that present leaders were ignorant of the intricacies of world financial systems.

"The objective is to cause political instability because their allegations will in turn create misunderstanding among leaders," he said in his speech focused on the country's economic and financial problems.

"The leaders' supporters will then strike, one faction attempting to defend their existing leader and remove the challenger, while supporters of the challenger will pressure their leader to challenge the current leader," he said.

As a result, he said, campaigns which smear the respective leaders would be carried out until the situation becomes more tense and the politics strained.

He said that under such circumstances, the economic and financial problems could not be overcome, and the economic situation would worsen and finally the problems would become worse with leaders unable to work together, and either one would fall.

"Irrespective of who is successful, the attack on the country will continue until a leader is chosen, one that will submit to the wishes of the foreign powers, i.e. prepared to have his country once again recolonised," he said.

"When this happens, the economy will be open for foreign funds to acquire major local companies. At that time they will revive the economy and the value of our currency," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that this could be done easily as they would claim that their confidence had returned, thus allowing the value of the Ringgit to appreciate.

He explained how currency traders, with the large amount of US Dollars in their possession, could revive the value of the Ringgit.

Dr Mahathir said that according to the trading system they formulated, each time any currency is bought using the US Dollar, the value of that currency would appreciate.

He said that according to the Western Liberal Democrats, all these, including the market forces which cause suffering to the people in the developing nations were acceptable.

On Umno, Dr Mahathir called on Umno members to be cautious and careful in running the organisation so that it would continue to be successful in

leading the Malaysian Government and continue to survive.

"Whether we would continue to survive or not, would depend on our culture, our character, and whether we are cautious and careful especially when something new is introduced.

"Do not, for whatever reasons, allow short-term gains to blur our vision about the long-term losses," he said.

"Nothing is permanent in this world. Umno too is not permanent, but its lifespan need not be shortened just because we are careless, inefficient and obsessed with quick gains.

"The Umno struggle is not yet over. Plenty more need to be done by Umno. The Malays and other Bumiputeras are still not strong enough to be left alone to fend for themselves without Umno's leadership and protection," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the Malays and the other Bumiputeras were still not strong to compete in the ever-challenging world.

"Our independence is still not assured. Even nations that are more powerful than us have been defeated. Are we able to save ourselves without unity and brotherhood among us, without working together with other races which are in concert with us in saving our blessed nation?, he said.

"The answer is No. The answer is that we still could not practise the Western-style liberal democracy if we want to survive.

"So, we have to save and protect Umno," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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