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**MAHATHIR PROFILE**

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 15 (BERNAMA) — A FIVE-YEAR-LONG TEST OF HIS METTLE, HIS ABILITIES AND APTITUDES, HIS ACCEPTANCE BY ALL MALAYSIANS, IS OVER. (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS PASSED WITH FLYING COLOURS, AND IS POISED TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER. HIS ERA SHOULD SEE THE NATION ACHIEVING GOALS FOR WHICH, WHEN HE FIRST ESPOUSED THEM, HE WAS BRANDED AN +ULTRA, EXTREMIST AND RACIALIST+ — FOR IDEAS WHICH WERE ONLY TOO FAR AHEAD OF THEIR TIME.

HE HAD CALLED FOR MALAYSIAN SOCIETY TO BE RESTRUCTURED SO THAT BUMIPUTRAS HAVE A MORE MEANINGFUL STAKE; HE HAD URGED THAT POVERTY, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, BE ERADICATED; HE HAD WANTED NATIONAL UNITY TO BE FORGED THROUGH A SINGLE LANGUNK BAHASA MALAYSIA.

THESE HAVE NOW BEEN ACCEPTED BY MALAYSIANS AT ALL LEVELS — WHAT WERE ONCE HERESY TO THEM ARE NOW ACCEPTED FACTS OF LIFE, REALISTIC OBJECTIVES.

SO MANY OTHER IDEAS OF HIS, INCLUDING ONE FOR +RICE ESTATES+ TO MAKE SMALLHOLDINGS MORE VIABLE, ARE ONLY NOW SEEING REALISATION.

HE WILL TAKE OVER THE NATION'S LEADERSHIP AT A TIME WHEN HIS LINE OF THINKING AND THAT OF OTHER MALAYSIANS AS A WHOLE ARE CONGRUENT. — BERNAMA MORE 1730/A1

NO84: (F)  
**MAHATHIR PROFILE 2 KUALA LUMPUR**

MANY STILL REMEMBER THE SHOCK THAT REVERBERATED FROM DATUK HUSSEIN ONN'S SELECTION OF DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AS HIS NO. 2. EVEN SEVERAL BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS FOUND IT HARD TO DIGEST.

BUT HIS QUALITIES AND LEADERSHIP STYLE WERE SOON APPARENT — A PRAGMATIC, OUTSPOKEN MAN WHO SEES HIS RESPONSIBILITIES CLEARLY AND EXECUTES THEM FIRMLY, DECISIVELY. HE TOLERATES NO NONSENSE. WHILE BEING DEPUTY PREMIER, HE ALSO HELD THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO AND LATER, TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM SAW SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT; ADMINISTRATION OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WAS STANDARDISED; DISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS MORE STRICTLY ENFORCED; THE TEACHERS' LOT IMPROVED.

THERE WAS A SURGE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT INTO MALAYSIA; THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIAL BASE DIVERSIFIED AND EXPANDED; HEAVY INDUSTRIES HAVE BEGUN TO GAIN A STAKE IN THE ECONOMY; BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WAS ACCELERATED THROUGH VARIOUS SCHEMES AND INCENTIVES; THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY HAD BECOME THE ENVY OF EVEN SEVERAL DEVELOPED NATIONS. — BERNAMA MORE 1734/A1

NO85: (F)  
**MAHATHIR - PROFILE 3 KUALA LUMPUR**

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS ONLY 20 WHEN HE BECAME ACTIVE IN POLITICS. AT WAR'S END HE WAS SECRETARY OF THE KEDAH MALAY UNION AND JOINED UMNO SOON AFTER DATUK HUSSEIN'S FATHER, DATUK ONN JAAFAR, FOUNDED IT IN 1946.

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IN THOSE PRE-INDEPENDENCE DAYS HE WROTE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR, THE RURAL FOLK, THE LESS PRIVILEGED. A KEDAH BOY, HE STUDIED MEDICINE IN SINGAPORE AND SERVED IN HIS HOME STATE FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE ENTERING PRIVATE PRACTICE IN 1957. HE WON THE KOTA STAR SEAT TO BECOME AN MP IN 1964, AND A YEAR LATER BECAME AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER.

THE 1969 GENERAL ELECTION WHICH SAW THE EROSION OF THE NICV J5 HOLD OVER THE ELECTORATE ALSO COST DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HIS SEAT.

HIS BRASH OUTSPOKENESS ON MATTERS WHICH WERE THEN CONSIDERED TOO SENSITIVE LED TO HIS EXPULSION FROM UMNO THE SAME YEAR.

TWO AND A HALF YEARS SAW A MORE SUAVE MAHATHIR REJOINING UMNO UNDER TUN ABDUL RAZAK'S LEADERSHIP. HE WAS RETURNED TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL WITH THE HIGHEST MEMBER OF VOTES IN THAT YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HE WAS APPOINTED A SENATOR IN DECEMBER 1972 AND MADE CHAIRMAN OF FIMA (FOOD INDUSTRIES OF MALAYSIA SDN BHD), A GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY. — BERNAMA MORE 1739/A1

N086: (F)  
MAHATHIR-PROFILE 4 KUALA LUUMPUR

HE WON UNOPPOSED IN KUBANK PASU TO RETURN TO THE DEWAN RAKYAT IN 1974 AND BECAME EDUCATION MINISTER IN TUN RAZAK'S FIRST BARISAN NASIONAL CABINET.

+I WILL TRY TO DO A GOOD JOB -- FOR ALL MALAYSIANS,+ HE SAID AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE.

HE WAS ELECTED AN UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT IN 1975 AND A YEAR LATER STEPPED UP TO BECOME ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PREMIER.

— BERNAMA 1741/A1  
MAHATHIR-PROFIL

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 MEI (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD YANG DIUJI KEMANTAPAN, KEMAMPUAN DAN KEWIBAWAANNYA SELAMA LIMA TAHUN TELAH MEMBUKTIKAN KETOKOHANNYA SEBAGAI BAKAL PERDANA MENTERI YANG DITERIMA RAMAI.

ERANYA AKAN MERUPAKAN ZAMAN NEGARA MENCAPAI BERBAGAI KEJAYAAN HASIL IDE-IDE YANG DIUTARAKANNYA SEHINGGA PADA SATU KETIKA DAHULU BELIAU PERNAH DICAP SEBAGAI +ULTRA+, PELAMPAU DAN PERKAUMAN. INI TALAH CUMA KERANA IDE-IDE ITU TIDAK DAPAT DITERIMA KETIKA ITU.

BELIAU MAHUKAN SEBUAH MASYARAKAT MALAYSIA YANG DISUSUN SEMULA SUPAYA KAUM BUMIPUTERA MEMPUNYAI BAHAGIAN YANG LEBIH BERMAKNA BELIAU JUGA MENGGESA AGAR KEMISKINAN TERUTAMA DI LUARBANDAR DIBENTARAS, BELIAU INGIN MEWUJUDKAN PERPADUAN MENERUSI PENGGUNAAN CUMA SATU BAHASA IAITU BAHASA MALAYSIA.

SARANAN INI KINI DITERIMA OLEH SEMUA LAPISAN MASYARAKAT MALAYSIA DAN MENJADI LUMRAN HIDUP YANG REALISTIK.

BANYAK LAGI IDENYA TERMASUK MENUBUHKAN SEBUAH LADANG PADI UNTUK MENJADIKAN CARA BERKEBUN KECIL LEBIH MENGUNTUNGAN, KINI MENJADI SATU KENYATAAN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AKAN MENGAMBIL ALIH PUCUK PIMPINAN NEGARA PADA SAAT-SAAT CARA PEMIKIRANNYA DAN LAIN-LAIN RAKYAT MALAYSIA HAMPIS SERUPA. — BERSAMBUNG 1750/SZ

MAHATHIR-PROFIL 2 KUALA LUMPUR

RAMAI ORANG TERMASUK KALANGAN BARISAN NASIONAL MASIH TERINGAT KETIKA DATUK HUSSEIN MEMBUAT KEPUTUSAN YANG MEMERANJATKAN DENGAN MEMILIH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SEBAGAI TIMBALANNYA.

TETAPI KEWIBAWAAN DAN CARA KEPIMPINANNYA MENJADI JELAS — IAITU SEORANG YANG PRAGMATIK, BERSIKAP TERBUKA DAN MEMIKUL TANGGUNGJAWABNYA DAN MELAKSANAKAN KEPUTUSANNYA DENGAN TEGAS.

KETIKA MEMEGANG JAWATAN TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI, BELIAU JUGA MENJAWAT PORTFOLIO PELAJARAN DAN KEMUDIAN PERDAGANGAN DAN PERINDUSTRIAN.

SISTEM PELAJARAN TELAH BERKEMBANG DAN DIPERBAIKI, PENTADBIRAN INSTITUSI-INSTITUSI PELAJARAN TINGGI DISAMAKAN, DISIPLIN DI KALANGAN PELAJAR DIPERKETATKAN DAN NASIB PARA GURU DIPERBAIKI.

PELABURAN ASING DATANG MENCURAH-CURAH KE MALAYSIA, ASAS PERINDUSTRIAN NEGARA DIPELBAGAI DAN DIKEMBANGKAN, INDUSTRI-INDUSTRI BERAT MULA MEMAINKAN PERANAN DALAM EKONOMI NEGARA, PENYERTAAN BUMIPUTERA DALAM EKONOMI DIPESATKAN MENERUSI BERBAGAI-BAGAI SEKIM DAN GALAKAN, EKONOMI MALAYSIA TELAH MENJADI IDAMAN BEBERAPA BUAH NEGARA MAJU. — BERSAMBUNG 1805/SZ