

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 6th (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROOF SO FAR THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF +NATIONAL INTERESTS.+

HE WAS REPLYING TO ENCIK CHIAN HENG KAI (DAP-BATU GAJAH) WHO ASKED DURING QUESTION TIME WHAT WAS MEANT BY +NATIONAL INTEREST.+

THE EXCUSE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN NOT RECOGNISING NANYANG, TAIWAN, INDIAN AND WEST ASIAN UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

THE MEMBER ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RECONSIDER RECOGNISING THESE DEGREES.

DR. MAHATHIR REPLIED THAT A COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DATO' HUSSEIN ONN TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER DECIDED THAT RECOGNITION OF DEGREES WAS BASED ON ACADEMIC STUDIES AND NATIONAL INTEREST.

+THE DEFINITION OF +NATIONAL INTEREST+ IS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

+SO FAR, THERE IS NO PROOF THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE DISAGREE WITH THE DEFINITION OF +NATIONAL INTEREST, MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WHICH IS THE GUIDE FOR THE COMMITTEE.+ —BERNAMA

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