

56:  
MAHATHIR-UNION  
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236

<sup>15</sup>  
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 11 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED STRESSED TODAY THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIONS CONFORMING STRICTLY WITH REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE ORGANISATIONS.

IF REGULATIONS WERE WAIVED, ANY ORDINARY UNION MEMBER COULD MAKE DECISIONS AND CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE UNION, HE SAID.

THE SITUATION WOULD NOT ONLY LEAD TO REJECTION OF THE DULY ELECTED UNION COMMITTEE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNION BY THE OTHERS, BUT MEMBERS WOULD ALSO SQUABBLE WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS.

HE WAS OPENING THE SPECIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE MALAY TEACHERS UNION OF WEST MALAYSIA AT THE AMINUDDIN BAKI SECONDARY SCHOOL HERE.

THE MINISTER SAID COUNTRIES AND THEIR CITIZENS SHOULD SIMILARLY CONFORM WITH ESTABLISHED RULES AND REGULATIONS.

+IF UNIONS CAN FALL BECAUSE UNION RULES ARE IGNORED, THAN THE COUNTRY TOO CAN FALL IF HER CITIZENS DO NOT ADHERE TO EXISTING LAWS AND RULES.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1535/A1

57:  
MAHATHIR - UNION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT RECENTLY THERE WAS A GROUP WHICH FELT THAT LAWS AND RULES RESTRICTED THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP.

THEY FELT THAT PROTESTING THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS WAS NOT EFFECTIVE ENOUGH AND THEY THEREFORE USED MEANS NOT SANCTIONED BY THE LAWS TO ESPOUSE THEIR CAUSE, HE ADDED.

HE CENSURED SUCH ACTIONS AS UNDEMOCRATIC, SAYING THEY WOULD CAUSE CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA PRACTISED DEMOCRACY, THIS DID NOT MEAN THE SYSTEM DID NOT HAVE REGULATIONS ENABLING THE PEOPLE TO PROTEST OR CRITICISE.

HE ASSURED THAT PROTESTS GENERATING FROM GENUINE CAUSES WOULD BE GIVEN CLOSE ATTENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE URGED TEACHERS TO TEACH THEIR STUDENTS ABOUT DEMOCRACY. — BERNAMA MORE 1539/A1

58:  
MAHATHIR - UNION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNION, ENCIK NORDIN HAJI MAHMUD, SAID THE MEETING WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY MORAL DECLINE AMONG STUDENTS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CIVICS. — BERNAMA 1540/A1