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PARLIAMENT-MOTION

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 8 (BERNAMA) — THE DEWAN RAKYAT TONIGHT REJECTED A DAP MOTION TO POSTPONE FOR SIX MONTHS THE DEBATE ON THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AMENDMENT BILL.

THE MOTION WAS TABLED BY DAP LEADER, ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAD MOVED THE BILL FOR DEBATE AND APPROVAL.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MOTION WAS REJECTED, ALL THE DAP MPS WALKED OUT OF THE CHAMBER IN PROTEST.

ENCIK LIM IN MOVING THE MOTION SAID THE BILL HAD WIDE IMPLICATIONS AND WOULD JEOPARDISE THE POSITION OF THE STUDENTS, LECTURERS AND ACADEMIC STAFF OF UNIVERSITIES.

ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, HE SAID, SHOULD BE GIVEN A LONGER PERIOD TO STUDY THE BILL AS IT AFFECTED THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

ENCIK LIM CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S +HASTY+ DECISION IN PRESENTING THE BILL WAS +NOT DEMOCRATIC+ AS NO DECISION IN PRESENTING THE BILL WAS +NOT DEMOCRATIC+ AS NO DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH THE BAR COUNCIL AND STUDENTS AS WELL AS ACADEMIC STAFF.

SUPPORTING THE MOTION, ENCIK FAN YEW TENG (DAP-MENGLERBU) DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE AS AN ACT OF +DISRESPECT AND OF NO-CONFIDENCE+ IN LEARNED PEOPLE. —BERNAMA MORE 2040/MD

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PARLIAMENT-MOTION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR, IN HIS REPLY, SAID THE BILL HAD TO BE APPROVED BEFORE THE ADMISSION OF NEW STUDENTS NEXT MONTH.

+THIS IS IMPORTANT IN VIEW THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO WILL PREVENT THE NEW STUDENTS FROM CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION,+ HE ADDED.

+WITH THE PASSING OF THE BILL, THEIR PLANS COULD BE STOPPED,+ HE STRESSED.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT PRACTISED DEMOCRACY AND HAD GIVEN ADEQUATE TIME FOR ALL MEMBERS TO STUDY THE BILL.

THE MINISTER SAID THAT IF EVERY BILL NEEDED TO BE REFERRED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OR A REFERENDUM AND THE LIKE HAD TO BE HELD, IT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY.

+IF THIS HAS TO BE DONE, THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING PARLIAMENT,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SPENT MORE THAN \$100 MILLION ON UNIVERSITIES AND IT DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE MONEY GOING TO WASTE. —BERNAMA 2048/MD