

MAHATHIR-UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA) - DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY ALL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFESSION OF ABDUL SAMAD ISMAIL WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID ONLY THE GOVERNMENT WAS CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THESE INVESTIGATIONS AND NATURALLY THEY WOULD TAKE SOME TIME.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT UMNO AS A POLITICAL PARTY, WAS IN NO POSITION TO LAUNCH A CLEAN-UP DRIVE TO WEED OUT COMMUNISTS +UNLESS IT TOOK THE FORM OF AN INQUISITION OR WITCH HUNT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID HE DID NOT WANT.+

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWSMEN IN HIS OFFICE, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO HOLD AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF SAMAD ISMAIL'S CONFESSION.

+WE DONT SEE THE NEED FOR ONE,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE
1715/LK

+HOWEVER, ALL ACCUSATIONS WILL BE INVESTIGATED. THE ONLY PEOPLE CAPABLE OF INVESTIGATING IS THE GOVERNMENT. NATURALLY IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME,+ DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

QUESTIONED ABOUT THE PROPOSAL BY UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SENU ABDUL RAHMAN TO LAUNCH A CLEAN-UP DRIVE IN UMNO, HE SAID, +UMNO IS IN NO POSITION TO LAUNCH SUCH A DRIVE. WE DO NOT HAVE THE INVESTIGATORS.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE FULLY BACKED THE POSITION ADOPTED BY DATUK HUSSEIN ONN IN OPPOSITION TO ANY +WITCH-HUNT+.

+IF WE WANT PEOPLE TO BE FAIR TO US WE MUST BE FAIR TO THEM+ HE SAID IN EXPLAINING HIS OPPOSITION TO SUCH A WITCH-HUNT.

DR. MAHATHIR RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VETTING NEW MEMBERS THROUGH THE FILLING OF MORE DETAILED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS.

+FORM-FILLING WOULD NOT HELP US TO DETERMINE WHO IS A COMMUNIST WHO IS NOT. ONE CAN WRITE ANYTHING IN SUCH FORMS,+ HE SAID.

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE UMNO DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE WOULD MEET ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS DATUK HARUN IDRIS' APPLICATION TO REJOIN UMNO.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD THEN FORWARD IT'S FINDINGS TO THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL.

HE SAID BECAUSE OF THE FASTING MONTH NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED YET FOR THE REGULAR UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING. - BERNAMA