

ELECTIONS - ASRI
BM

78 (P)
KOTA BHARU, JUNE 28 (BERNAMA) — PAS PRESIDENT DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD ASRI HAS REITERATED HIS CHALLENGE TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TO HOLD AN OPEN DEBATE BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION ON THE LATTER'S BANNED BOOK +THE MALAY DILEMMA.+

HE ALSO CHALLENGED DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TO LIFT FOR FOUR HOURS THE BAN ON PUBLIC RALLIES AND THE BOOK TO ALLOW THE DEBATE TO BE HELD EITHER IN THE DAY OR AT NIGHT.

DATUK ASRI SUGGESTED THAT THE DEBATE BE HELD AT PADANG COURT IN ALOR STAR AND THAT A NEUTRAL INDIVIDUAL BE INVITED TO CHAIR THE DEBATE. HE MENTIONED PROF. UNGKU AZIZ AND PROF. SYED NAGUIB.

SPEAKING TO PARTY SUPPORTERS AT THE DEWAN ZULKIFLI HERE YESTERDAY EVENING, HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WOULD NOT DARE TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE BECAUSE BY DOING SO HE WOULD BE +DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE.+

DATUK ASRI ALSO PUT FORWARD SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOOK WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIM, HAD UNDERGONE THE FOURTH PRINTING IN SINGAPORE LAST YEAR.

— BERNAMA MORE 1541/ZCM

ELECTION - ASRI 2 KOTA BHARU

+HAS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PERMITTED THE BOOK TO BE UNDERGO SO MANY PRINTINGS IN SINGAPORE WHILE IT IS BANNED IN MALAYSIA OR HAS HE SOLD HIS COPYRIGHT TO THE PUBLISHER IN THE REPUBLIC?+ HE ASKED.

+IF DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PERMITTED THE PRINTING OF THE BOOK HAS HE ALREADY RECEIVED THE ROYALTY PAYMENTS, IF SO WHY AND IF NOT SO WHY? HE QUESTIONED.

THE PAS LEADER THEN REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S REASON FOR THE BAN ON PUBLIC RALLIES AND PUT FORWARD SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THE COINCIDENCE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA.

+BEFORE FIXING THE DATE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, WAS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE THAT IT COINCIDED WITH THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND IF SO, WHY WAS THAT DATE SELECTED?+ HE ASKED.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNAWARE THAT THE DATE COINCIDED WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY THEN IT IS NOT QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY,+ DATUK ASRI SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1544/ZCM

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DATUK ASRI CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE DATE BUT FIXED THE GENERAL ELECTION WITH INTENT TO INTIMIDATE THE PEOPLE AND BAN PUBLIC RALLIES TO WIN THE ELECTIONS EASILY.

THE PAS PRESIDENT DENIED THERE WAS COOPERATION BETWEEN PAS AND DAP AND ASKED WHY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH NEVER ATTACKED DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD, A FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER, WHO CLAIMED TO BE A COMMUNIST.

HE SAID THAT PAS ATTACKED ANY PARTY ON TWO POINTS - IDEOLOGY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY. — BERNAMA 1547/ZCM