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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 27 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS TO REVIEW THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM NOW BEING PRACTISED IN THE COUNTRY TO PREVENT BAD-ELEMENTS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE FROM ANY INDUSTRIAL CRISIS.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY THAT THE REVIEW WAS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH HAS SEVERAL LOOPHOLES.

AS A RESULT, BAD-ELEMENTS HAD BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE IN AN INDUSTRIAL CRISIS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS REPLYING TO DATUK HAJI ABU BAKAR UMAR (PAS-KOTA SETAR) WHO RAISED THE MATTER DURING QUESTIONS TIME.

ON HIS REPORTED STATEMENTS OVER THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF MAS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE MADE THE STATEMENTS IN RESPONSE OF QUESTIONS POSED BY NEWSMEN.

ACCORDING TO HIM, HE HAD BEEN ASKED ON THE GOVERNMENT NEXT MOVE SHOULD ALL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE MAS DISPUTE FAIL AS A RESULT OF THE MAS EMPLOYEES' RELUCTANCE TO SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THEIR MANAGEMENT.

+I ANSWERED THAT IF ALL EFFORTS FAIL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CLOSE DOWN MAS,+ HE SAID.

BERNAMA MORE 1703/AZ

NO73: (F)

PARLIAMENT-MAS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SECOND OCCASION DURING WHICH HE MADE SUCH A STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, +WHETHER OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS IN WANTING TO CLOSE DOWN MAS?+

+MY ANSWER WAS THAT, IF ALL EFFORTS FAIL, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE CLOSURE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE ON THE WAY HIS ANSWERS WERE TREATED BY THE PRESS.

+I HAVE NEVER WARNED TO CLOSE DOWN MAS, I ONLY ANSWERED THEIR QUESTIONS,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1705/AZ