

NO23: (F)
MAHATHIR
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104

KUALA KANGSAR, NOV. 2 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT CONSTRAINTS IN THE SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY PRACTISED IN THE COUNTRY ARE MERELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

THESE CONSTRAINTS WERE BASED ON THE UNWRITTEN CUSTOMS OBSERVED BY THE PEOPLE, HE SAID WHEN OPENING A CIVICS COURSE FOR 500 COMMUNITY LEADERS AT THE DEWAN MERDEKA HERE.

PRESENT WERE DEPUTY INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK HAJI EMBONG YANYA AND PERAK MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOHAMED WAN TEH.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA THE PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THE POWER TO CHOOSE THE GOVERNMENT THEY WANTED, UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ONLY PUT UP A SHOW OF DEMOCRACY WITHOUT PRACTISING IT.

THERE WERE LAWS THAT CURTAILED THE FREEDOM OF A PERSON BUT +WE KNOW THAT THESE CONSTRAINTS ARE FOR OUR OWN GOOD,+ HE SAID. —
BERNAMA MORE 1618/A1

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HE HIT OUT AT CERTAIN GROUPS THAT FORGOT ABOUT THE BENEFITS THEY ENJOYED AND THOSE THAT SOUGHT WAYS TO MAKE THE PEOPLE FORGET THE BENEFITS THEY WERE ENJOYING.

THESE PEOPLE WERE ASKING WHAT THEY HAD GAINED SINCE INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT REMEMBERING AND BEING THANKFUL FOR WHAT THEY HAD ACQUIRED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST GROUPS THAT CARRIED OUT DAKWAH ACTIVITIES FOR POLITICAL ENDS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF RELIGION.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE POLITICIANS THAT DID NOT LIKE DAKWAH ACTIVITIES TO BE LOOKED INTO POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS.

ISLAMIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE CONCEALED IF THEY WERE NOT CONDUCTED FOR OTHER INTENTIONS, HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1621/A1