

NO85 (F)
MAHATHIR-AMENDMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 12 (BERNAMA)—THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIETIES ACT IS MEANT TO CURB PEOPLE FROM USING NON-POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS AS A FRONT TO FURTHER THEIR POLITICAL MOTIVES, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY. THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE ORDINARY ORGANISATIONS OR SOCIETIES BEING USED AS POLITICAL PLATFORMS.

+WE WOULD LIKE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS TO BE OPEN ABOUT IT AND NOT USE OTHER SOCIETIES OR ORGANISATIONS AS A FRONT JUST LIKE WHAT IS BEING DONE BY THE COMMUNISTS+, HE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING THE TURKISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENCIK ILTER TURKMEN, AT HIS OFFICE HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, TO BE TABLED AT THE COMING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, WOULD PUT A STOP TO THE USE OF ORGANISATIONS AS A BASE BY THOSE WITH POLITICAL MOTIVES.

ONE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IS TO BAR THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES FROM SEEKING OR HOLDING OFFICE IN ANY SOCIETY, INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES. —BERNAMA MORE 1901/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT NORMALLY A PERSON COULD NOT STAND FOR ELECTION IF HE WAS CONVICTED.

+WE REGARD PEOPLE WHO ARE CONVICTED AS NOT SUITABLE TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS+, HE ADDED.

ON HIS MEETING WITH ENCIK TURKMEN, HE SAID IT WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT DURING HIS VISIT TO TURKEY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID TRADE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES HAD NOT IMPROVED MUCH AS TURKEY WAS STILL NOT BUYING TIN FROM MALAYSIA AND MALAYSIA WAS NOT BUYING ANYTHING FROM TURKEY.

HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO LACK OF INFORMATION ON TURKISH PRODUCTS AND DIRECTED THAT INFORMATION RESOURCES BE STEPPED UP IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MAS LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF STOPPING AT TURKEY ON ITS FLIGHTS TO EUROPE. —BERNAMA 1907/MD