

NO33 (F)
MAHATHIR-3R 82

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 23 (BERNAMA) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED CERTAIN GROUPS TO STOP BUILDING UP DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 3R CURRICULUM IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THE GROUPS, THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTION IF THEIR ACTIVITIES THREATENED THE COUNTRY'S PEACE AND SECURITY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE, HE SAID: +WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE.+

HE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY THE GROUPS BUT ADDED: +LET THEM WORRY ABOUT IT.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GROUPS, IN CARRYING OUT THEIR ANTI 3R ACTIVITIES HAD STARTED TO INVOLVE THE EDUCATION ACT, ESPECIALLY THE PROVISION WHICH ALLOWED THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF NATIONAL TYPE SCHOOLS TO NATIONAL SCHOOLS. --BERNAMA MORE 1525/HM

NO34 (F)
MAHATHIR-3R 2 KUALA LUMPUR 82

HE STRESSED THAT THE PROVISION HAD BEEN WIDELY DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY CLARIFIED THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO CONVERT THE NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS INTO NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISION WAS, HOWEVER, NECESSARY TO FACILITATE CHANGES SHOULD THERE BE ANY REQUEST FROM ANY SUCH SCHOOLS FOR CONVERSION INTO NATIONAL SCHOOL STATUS.

HE SAID SINCE INDEPENDENCE, ONLY ONE SUCH SCHOOL HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO NATIONAL SCHOOL AND THIS WAS DONE ON THE REQUEST OF THE SCHOOL AND THE PARENTS.

THE SCHOOL WAS A TAMIL SCHOOL IN KELANTAN, WHERE ACCORDING TO THE PARENTS, COULD NO LONGER ATTRACT PUPILS FOR THE TAMIL STREAM.

"APART FROM THAT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER MADE ANY PROPOSAL OR MOVE FOR SUCH CONVERSION," HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1547/LK

NO35 (F)
MAHATHIR-3R 3 KUALA LUMPUR 82

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO INTENTIONALLY RAISED COMMUNAL ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE R SYSTEM.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THERE WERE ISSUES WHICH WERE NOT ONLY SENSITIVE TO THE BUMIPUTRAS BUT ALSO TO NON-BUMIPUTRA COMMUNITIES, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE RAISED.

SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES, IF CONTINUE TO BE RAISED, COULD STIR UP COMMUNAL FEELINGS AND THIS COULD THREATEN THE NATION'S PEACE AND SECURITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE HAD BRIEFED THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ON ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE GROUPS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3R SYSTEM.

THE FEAR WAS UNFOUNDED AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO CHANGE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN CHINESE SCHOOLS, HE STRESSED.

THE 3R CURRICULUM, HE ASSURED, WOULD NOT CHANGE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THESE SCHOOLS.

ONLY THE INSTRUCTION TO TEACHERS TEACHING THE 3R CURRICULUM WAS GIVEN IN BAHASA MALAYSIA BUT THIS WAS A NORMAL PRACTICE EVEN IN THE PAST, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1603/LK