

N147 (F)
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 10³² (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT GAVE A STRONG ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP WILL STRICTLY ADHERE TO EVERYTHING THAT IS GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO HONOUR THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT THAT WAS FORMULATED BY THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE COUNTRY.

SPEAKING AT THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE FEI SAN MALAYSIA CULTURAL HEALTH CLUB HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CONSTITUTION AND ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE DIFFERENT RACES IN MALAYSIA WOULD ENSURE A STABLE AND HARMONIOUS STATE.

HE RECALLED THE DAYS BEFORE AND THE EARLY DAYS AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

HE SAID THAT AT THAT TIME, THE STRUGGLE AND PAINSTAKING EFFORTS WERE REQUIRED TO PLACE THE COUNTRY ON A PROPER AND STRONG FOUNDATION TO ENSURE A VIABLE FUTURE FOR ALL.

— BERNAMA MORE 2255/AZ

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+WE AGREED THEN ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC AND BASIC PREMISES FOR BUILDING THIS COUNTRY AND THIS NATION, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE INSTRUMENTS FOR UNITY THROUGH A NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE WHEREBY THE INDIGENOUS NORMS AND VALUES WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF THE MALAYSIAN AND NATIONAL WAY OF LIFE.

+UNLIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE ALIEN CULTURAL INFLUENCES HAVE TO BE DISCARDED, WE IN MALAYSIA ARE FORTUNATE THAT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES, OUR PEOPLE ARE FREE TO LEARN AND PRACTICE THEIR BELIEFS AND CULTURES, + HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIANS WHO HAD TRAVELLED WIDELY ABROAD WOULD COME TO APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF BEING THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD MANAGED TO SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENT, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL BECAUSE IT PLACED A HIGH VALUE ON THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE PEOPLE AND NATIONAL IDEALS, HE SAID. —BERNAMA MORE 2327/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, ADMITTED THAT AS A MULTI RACIAL SOCIETY, MALAYSIA HAD TO EXPECT CERTAIN GRIEVANCES FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES.

+FOR THAT MATTER, THERE IS NO COUNTRY WHERE EVERYTHING IS ALL FINE AND NO ONE HAS ANY GRIEVANCE,+ HE SAID.

WHAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REGRETTED WAS THE TENDENCY OF SOME PEOPLE WHO LIKED TO CAPITALISE ON AN ISSUE TO IGNITE +MOB PSYCHOLOGY+ FOR MOBILISING THE PEOPLE, OR SEGMENT OF THE PEOPLE, AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADVISED THE PEOPLE NOT TO DANCE TO THE TUNE OF THESE MISCHIEF MAKERS WHO WERE ALWAYS OUT TO DISRUPT THE POTENTIAL OF A VIABLE FUTURE FOR ALL. —BERNAMA MORE 2345/HM

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QUOTING THE RECENT CONTROVERSY OVER THE 3-R EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF HOW PETTY ISSUES COULD BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION BY CERTAIN GROUPS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF CHANGING THE CHARACTER OF CHINESE OR TAMIL PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

HE SAID THE PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT SAFEGUARDED THE RIGHTS OF USING THE MOTHER TONGUE OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE RESPECTED.

ON HIS BOOK, +THE MALAY DILEMMA+, THE BAN ON WHICH HAD BEEN LIFTED, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE BOOK WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE, TAMIL AND BAHASA MALAYSIA SO AS TO ENABLE EVERYONE TO READ IT. —BERNAMA MORE 2355/MD

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EARLIER, MCA PRESIDENT AND TRANSPORT MINISTER DATUK LEE SAN CHOON SAID THE NEW WORK ETHICS INTRODUCED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HAD THE UNDERLYING THEME OF EFFICIENCY AND HONESTY.

THIS WAS IMPORTANT IF THE COUNTRY WAS TO PROGRESS FURTHER FROM ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF ATTAINMENT, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE IT WILL AFFECT SOME PEOPLE. SOME WILL FALL BY THE WAYSIDE AND SOME WILL BE HURT IN THIS PROCESS. THESE ARE THE DRAWBACKS AND DISCOMFORTS OF CHANGE, EVEN A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK LEE ALSO SAID THAT THE RECENT CONTROVERSY ON THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3R SYSTEM IN SELECTED CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THE RESPONSIVENESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+THE VISIBLE CORRECTION BEING DONE NOW OVER THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION IS A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF HIS (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S) SINCERITY,+ HE ADDED. —BERNAMA MORE 0025/MD

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DATUK LEE HOPED THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ALL THE MEASURES TAKEN TO CORRECT THE PROBLEMS OF INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3R SYSTEM AS +THERE ARE STILL SOME AREAS WHICH MAY BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION.+ —BERNAMA 0030/MD