

PARLIAMENT-CORRUPTION
BM

(P)

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 19¹⁸² (BERNAMA) — THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD GAVE AN ASSURANCE TODAY THAT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY WILL ACT AGAINST ANYONE WHO IS INVOLVED WITH CORRUPTION WITHOUT REGARD TO WHETHER HE IS +A SHARK OR AN IKAN BILIS.+

HE SAID THAT FIRM ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN FOR ACTS WHICH CONFLICTED WITH THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY.

HE WAS WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE BILL TO ESTABLISH THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY WHICH WAS LATER PASSED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT SINCE MERDEKA, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ACTION AGAINST THREE MENTERIS BESAR AND REMOVED A FEDERAL MINISTER WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH CORRUPTION.

HE SAID THAT MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PROSECUTED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

THERE WERE THOSE AGAINST WHOM ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BUT STILL REMAINED ACTIVE IN POLITICS WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT INSPITE OF THE FACT THAT THEY BELONGED TO THE RULING PARTY, HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1945/1B

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MINISTERS WHO WERE OSTENSIBLY DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH CORRUPTION BUT WERE NOT ACTED AGAINST, IT DID NOT MEAN THEY WERE NOT BEING INVESTIGATED.

HOWEVER, THE ACA REQUIRED CLEAR PROOF OTHERWISE ANY INVESTIGATION WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO BE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE IF ANYONE WAS CHARGED WITHOUT PROOF HE COULD TAKE COUNTER ACTION TO CLEAR HIS REPUTATION, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ON THE OTHER HAND, IF A PERSON WAS CURRUPT AND COURT ACTION COULD NOT BE TAKEN BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REMOVE HIM FROM HIS POST.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CAREFUL ABOUT USING PUBLICITY TO FIGHT CORRUPTION BECAUSE IT COULD DAMAGE THE GOOD NAME AND IMAGE AND DESTROY THE MORALE OF ITS OFFICERS.

ON THE POWERS OF ACA OFFICERS, HE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE THE POWERS OF A POLICE AND PROSECUTING OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE. — BERNAMA MORE 2025/1B

N160: (F)

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THEIR SALARIES WOULD ALSO BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME AND, IF NECESSARY, ADJUSTED SO THAT THE OFFICERS COULD WORK SMOOTHLY, HE SAID.

THE AGENCY WOULD HAVE A RESEARCH UNIT AS RESEARCH WAS PART OF THE OFFICERS DUTY.

HE REFUTED AN ALLEGATION BY DATUK HAJI ABU BAKAR UMAR (PAS-KOTA SETAR) THAT THE CHANGE OF NAME WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN TO CHANGE THE NAME OF A CHILD WHO NEEDED DEWORMING.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NAME CHANGE WAS IMPORTANT AS A NAME WAS VERY MEANINGFUL AND GAVE THE CORRECT PICTURE OF SOMETHING.

+IT IS JUST LIKE A PARTY WHOSE NAME IS ISLAM BUT WHAT IT IS DOING CONFLICTS WITH ISLAM. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE TO SHOW THAT A NAME IS IMPORTANT. + HE SAID TO TABLE-THUMPING BY GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS. — BERNAMA MORE 2030/1B

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HE AGREED WITH A CALL BY DATUK ABU BAKAR THAT IF ANYONE DID NOT WANT TO BE CORRUPT HE MUST HAVE THE FEAR OF GOD IN HIM.

HE ALSO AGREED WITH THE PAS MEMBER THAT A PERSON WHO OFFERED A BRIBE SHOULD FACE PUNISHMENT IF HE WAS GUILTY OR IF HE DID NOT COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DISAGREED WITH THE OPPOSITION CONTENTION THAT PROMISES MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS WAS CORRUPTION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSALS OF THE RULING PARTY WERE PART OF ITS MANIFESTO AND WAS NOT CORRUPTION.

IF THIS MANIFESTO WAS CORRUPTION THEN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE ALSO COMMITTING CORRUPTION FOR TELLING VOTERS TO VOTE OPPOSITION IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ACT AS THEY WISHED.

+IT IS THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WHO ARE ENCOURAGING CORRUPTION BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING FROM KAMPUNG TO KAMPUNG TELLING THE PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING NOTHING FOR THEM, + HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 2130/1B

N172: (F)

PARLIAMENT-CORRUPTION 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE COURTS WERE GIVEN POWERS TO ORDER THAT THE PROPERTIES OF A PERSON WHO TAKES A BRIBE BE CONFISCATED.

ON PEOPLE WHO STASH CORRUPT MONEY OVERSEAS, HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONFIRM THIS AS IT COULD NOT COMPEL THE BANKS TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS ALSO COVER THE PERIOD AFTER AN OFFICER RESIGNED FROM THE SERVICE, AND IF HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF CORRUPT MONEY ACTION COULD STILL BE TAKEN.

THE ACA WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO INVESTIGATE ANYONE WHO INCURS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE UP TO 12 YEARS AFTER HE HAS RESIGNED FROM THE SERVICE. — BERNAMA MORE 2140/1B

N173: (F)
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DURING THE DEBATE, OPPOSITION LEADER ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EMPOWER THE ACA WITH ADEQUATE POWERS TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR.

THE MEMBER FOR PETALING SAID IT WAS POINTLESS FOR A CHANGE OF NAME WITHOUT GIVING THE ACA ADDITIONAL PWERS.

ENCIK LIM SAID THAT CORRUPTION HAD BEEN GOING ON AND BECOMING WIDESPREAD.

HE URGED DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MAKING THE ACA AN AUTONOMOUS BODY RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO PARLIAMENT SO THAT IT COULD ACT MORE FREELY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT PUBLIC OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS WHO OWNED PROPERTIES IN EXCESS OF THEIR INCOMES BE CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION.

— BERNAMA MORE 2150/1B

N174: (F)
PARLIAMENT-CORRUPTION 7 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK HAJI ABU BAKAR UMAR (PAS-KOTA SETAR), WHO ALSO SUPPORTED THE BILL, SAID IT WAS TIMELY.

HE PRAISED THE 2-M ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS LOYALTY AND SINCERITY TO WIPE OUT CORRUPT PRACTICES.

HAJI IDRIS IBRAHIM (BN-SETAPAK) SUGGESTED THAT ALL ACA OFFICERS TAKE AN OATH ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE RELIGIOUS.

THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL METHOD WOULD ENSURE THAT THE OFFICERS CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES FAIRLY AND JUSTLY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 2153/1B