

MAHATHIR-RTM

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DEFENDED THE DECISION BY RTM TO USE CHINESE AND TAMIL IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAMMES OVER RADIO VIA THE GREEN AND RED NETWORKS.

HE SAID THE STEPS WERE TAKEN AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHTS TO SAFEGUARD BAHASA MALAYSIA IN LINE WITH ITS STATUS AS THE NATION'S NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

THE EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE 33RD UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

THE QUESTION OF LANGUAGE USE IN RADIO HAD BECOME AN ISSUE THROUGHOUT THE ASSEMBLY MEETING WHICH BEGAN ON FRIDAY.

MANY DELEGATES CRITICISED INFORMATION MINISTER, ENCIK ADIB ADAM OVER THE ISSUE.

-- MORE 1617/AZ

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AT FIRST ENCIK ADIB STOOD UP TO ANSWER THE CRITICISMS ON THE ISSUE BUT WAS FORCED TO CUT SHORT BECAUSE OF DELEGATED BOOED HIM DOWN AND DID NOT ACCEPT HIS EXPLANATIONS.

WHEN IT WAS THE PRIME MINISTER' TURN TO SPEAK, HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS COMPELLED TO MAKE THE CLARIFICATION ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUE BECAUSE HE WAS +FORCED TO SIT+.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES RTM COULD NOT CONTINUE WITH THE USE THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GREEN AND RED CHANNELS.

DESCRIBING THE LANGUAGES USED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS +BASTRADISED LANGUAGE+ HE SAID IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WOULD DEFINATELY AFFECT THE STANDING OF BAHASA MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1651/PA

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PLAYED A TAPED VERSION OF A REQUEST PROGRAMME FOR SONGS OVER RTM'S GREEN CHANNEL AND ASKED THE DELEGATES TO TRANSLATE IT INTO BAHASA MALAYSIA.

THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE HALL WAS VERY QUITE WHEN THE TAPE WAS PLAYED THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.

A WOMAN ANNOUNCER WAS HEARD ANNOUNCING IN BAHASA MALAYSIA WHICH WAS NOT VERY CLEAR.

WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT THE ANNOUNCER HAD A CHINESE SLANG WITH NAMES AND MESSAGE WHICH WERE NOT IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

AFTER THE TAPE WAS PLAYED, THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE DELEGATES TO PUT UP THEIR HANDS IF THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE ANNOUNCER HAD SAID.

NO ONE PUT UP THEIR HANDS.

HE THEN EXPLAINED: +THIS WAS WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID BASTAR-DISED LANGUAGE.+ -- MORE 1705/AH

N126 (F)
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THE PRIME MINISTER CONCEEDED THAT THE BAHASA MALAYSIA WHICH WAS USED IN THE COUNTRY AT PRESENT WAS NOT PURE MALAY.

+IT IS A LANGAUGE WHICH HAD BEEN MARRIED TO VARIOUS OTHER LANGUAGES LIKE ARABIC, SANSKRIT, ENGLISH, FRENCH ETC., BUT THE MARRAIGES ARE LEGAL?+ HE JOKED BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN WITH LAUGHTER.

WITH THE LONG GUFFAW THAT FOLLOWED THE LANGUAGE ISSUE CAME TO REST WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PROCEEDING TO OTHER MATTERS. -- BERNAMA 1710/AH