

MAHATHIR-MARRIAGE

BH

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPLAINED TODAY THAT HE WAS COMPELLED TO HOLD THE RECENT WEDDING DINNER FOR HIS DAUGHTER AT RUMAH MALAYSIA BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF GUESTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT FIRST HE INTENDED TO INVITE ONLY A FEW GUESTS SO THAT THE FUNCTION COULD BE HELD AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.

HOWEVER, AFTER BEING ADVISED BY HIS OFFICERS THAT BEING THE PRIME MINISTER HE HAD TO INVITE THOSE WHO HAD TO BE INVITED WHETHER HE LIKED IT OR NOT.

+ FINALLY THE LIST CAME UP TO ABOUT 2,000 GUESTS AND AS SUCH IT WAS NECESSARY TO HOLD THE FUNCTION AT RUMAH MALAYSIA AS HIS RESIDENCE COULD NOT HOLD SUCH A LARGE CROWD, + HE SAID.

-- MORE 1610/AZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE THE CLARIFICATION IN REPLY TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE DEBATE AT THE 33RD UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE TODAY.

HE SAID HE WAS MAKING THE CLARIFICATION TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE MATTER.

HE SAID THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FUNCTION WERE GIVEN SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLD MEETINGS ON THE MATTER AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

I SPECIFICALLY TOLD THEM THAT DURING OFFICE HOURS YOU SHOULD WORK DON'T TALK ABOUT MARRIAGE, + HE SAID.

HE REMINDED THE DELEGATES THAT IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, IT WAS BEST TO USE SIMPLE COMMON SENSE.

-- MORE 1612/AZ

M107 (F)

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO NARRATED AN INCIDENT WHERE A JOURNALIST WHILE INTERVIEWING HIM HAD ACCUSED HIM OF MISUSING GOVERNMENT PROPERTY FOR PARTY WORK.

THIS WAS IN CONNECTION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE HE HELD AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT TO ANNOUNCE THE ADMISSION OF FORMER ABIM LEADER ENCIK ANWAR ISRAHIM TO UMNO.

+ I THE JOURNALIST TOLD ME THAT MY ACTION WAS WRONG BECAUSE I WAS HAVING THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS DEPARTMENT. +

+ IN SIMILAR VAIN I TOLD HIM THAT SINCE HIS QUESTION WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTY AND NOT GOVERNMENT, THEN HE SHOULD LEAVE THE PLACE. BUT HE COULD RE-ENTER IF HE WANTED TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT. +

+ IS'NT THIS LOGICAL? + HE ASKED TO THE DUMBLED DELEGATES WHO ROARED WITH LAUGHTER. -- BERNAMA 1615/AZ