

PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR

BM

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 12 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY THAT THERE IS NO DEVIATION IN PETRONAS AT PRESENT BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH OVER THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION.

REPLYING TO ENCIK SIM KWANG YANG (DAP-BANDAR KUCING), HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH OVER THE OIL CORPORATION FROM TIME TO TIME TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS NO DEVIATION IN THE COMPANY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE MP TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT IF HE HAS ANY INFORMATION ABOUT DEVIATIONS IN PETRONAS.

REPLYING TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION OF ENCIK SIM, HE SAID PETRONAS, LIKE ANY OTHER COMPANIES, WOULD HAVE TO FORWARD ITS ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNT TO THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES.

PETRONAS' ANNUAL STATEMENT, HE ADDED, WAS BEING AUDITED BY AN ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT BEFORE IT WAS FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES. -- MORE 1655/PA

ZCZC N087 (F)

PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT COPIES OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT WERE ALSO SENT TO HIM, THE AUDITOR-GENERAL AND THE TREASURY.

HE STRESSED THAT PETRONAS, WHICH WAS REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT 1965, NEED NOT HAVE TO FORWARD ITS ANNUAL ACCOUNT TO THE AUDITOR-GENERAL OR THE THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

POINTING OUT THAT PETRONAS WAS NEVER EXEMPTED FROM THE SCRUTINY OF PARLIAMENT, HE SAID: +THE RESPECTED MEMBER IS NOT AWARE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO HIM TO ASK SUCH QUESTIONS, IN ITSELF, IS A CONTROL OVER THE AFFAIRS OF PETRONAS - A RESPONSIBILITY THAT IS ENTRUSTED WITH ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.+

HE AGREED WITH ENCIK SIM THAT AT ONE TIME, PETRONAS' REVENUE WAS KEPT OFFSHORE BECAUSE IT PROVIDED A GREATER RETURNS TO THE NATION. -- MORE 1700/PA

ZCZC N088 (F)

PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, AT PRESENT, ALL PETRONAS' REVENUE WERE BEING KEPT IN THE COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM WAN NAJIB MOHAMAD (BN-PASIR PUTIH), HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF PETROLEUM AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PETRONAS WAS PLACED UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AS OIL WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT REVENUE TO THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA 1701/PA