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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 22 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOLD BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS OF PARLIMENT AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN TO "BUCK UP" IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE THIS DIRECTIVE IN A MEETING WITH SOME 500 BN MPS, STATE ASSEMBLYMEN AND SENATORS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, TOLD THE GATHERING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM THE PEOPLE THAT SOME MPS AND ASSEMBLYMEN WERE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES.

THIS WAS THE FIRST DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND ALL THE BN MPS SENATORS, AND ASSEMBLYMEN FROM THROUGHOUT PENINSULAR MALAYSIA TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY.

THE DECISION TO HOLD THE MEETING WAS REACHED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL, BN/UMNO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENCIK KAMARUZZAMAN BAHADUN SAID.

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A SIMILAR SESSION WITH SABAH AND SARAWAK ASSEMBLYMEN WOULD BE HELD IN KUCHING IN SEPTEMBER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, HE SAID.

BRIEFING REPORTERS AFTER TODAY'S MEETING, ENCIK KAMARUZZAMAN SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FIRST MET UMNO MPS, ASSEMBLYMEN AND SENATORS FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS BEFORE "WAKIL RAKYAT" FROM OTHER BN COMPONENT PARTIES JOINED THE MEETING.

DURING BOTH SESSIONS, WHICH WERE HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED TO THE UMNO AND BN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS THE GOVERNMENT'S LOOK-EAST POLICY, THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT AND THE PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

HE SAID THAT DESPITE WIDE PUBLICITY, MANY GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAD NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD SUCH GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

ENCIK KAMARUZZAMAN SAID SOME PARTICIPANTS POINTED OUT THAT THEY FACED DIFFICULTIES IN EXPLAINING TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS THE EFFECT OF GLOBAL RECESSION ON MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY.

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FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WAS CALLED TO OUTLINE THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD RECESSION ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

THIS WAS AIMED AT ASSISTING THE MPS AND ASSEMBLYMEN EXPLAIN THE ISSUE TO THE PEOPLE, ENCIK KAMARUZZAMAN SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER CHAIRED THE BN PRE COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ALL MPS AND SENATORS TO DISCUSS ISSUES TO BE DELIBERATED BY PARLIAMENT BEGINNING ON MONDAY.

THESE INCLUDED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO REVISE THE BOUNDARY OF PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE CONSTITUENCIES, HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE CRISIS IN SNAP WAS DISCUSSED, ENCIK KAMARUZZAMAN SAID IT WAS NOT TOUCHED AT ALL.

SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATTINGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD BRIEF THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE STATE.

HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE.--BERNAMA 1655/PA