

MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION

83 . ①
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 24 (BERNAMA) -- THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE 22 NEW PARLIAMENTARY AND MORE THAN 60 NEW STATE CONSTITUENCIES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL TO BE TABLED AT THE PARLIAMENT SESSION BEGINNING TOMORROW, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD BERNAMA THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROPOSING MORE CONSTITUENCIES BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VOTERS.

ASKED WHERE THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES WOULD BE, HE SAID THIS WAS UP TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO DECIDE.

+WE CAN MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BUT THEIR LOCATION AND DELINEATION OF BOUNDARIES WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION,+ HE ADDED.

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IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT ALL STATES EXCEPT PERLIS WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY.

AMONG THE STATES AFFECTED, SABAH IS EXPECTED TO HAVE FOUR ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, SELANGOR THREE, KELANTAN ONE, JOHORE TWO, THE FEDERAL TERRITORY THREE, PERAK TWO, AND MELAKA ONE.

THE LAST REVISION WAS MADE IN JULY 1974.

THE PRIME MINISTER SO SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO AUTHORISE DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES TO PRESENT BILLS, INCLUDING MONEY BILLS, IN PARLIAMENT. AT PRESENT, ONLY MINISTERS CAN TABLE BILLS.

MONEY BILLS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TABLED BY THE FINANCE MINISTER AND IN HIS ABSENCE, OTHER MINISTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WOULD ALSO BE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL ALLOWING THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE DEWAN NEGARA TO BE INVOLVED IN BUSINESS.

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+THIS MEANS THAT WE ARE REVERTING TO THE OLD PRACTICE WHERE THE DEPUTY SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT ARE CONSIDERED PART-TIMERS AND DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE+.

BUT HE SAID THEY WOULD BE GET AN ALLOWANCE AND A LOWER PAY THAN WHAT THEY RECEIVED AS FULL-TIME DEPUTY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING PEOPLE TO SERVE IN THE TWO POSTS BECAUSE +MOST WOULD RATHER DO THEIR OWN BUSINESS+.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED EXTENDING THE RULING TO DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS, INCLUDING THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

+THIS IS ALSO BECAUSE WE FIND DIFFICULTY GETTING CANDIDATES TO SERVE IN THE COMMISSIONS,+ HE ADDED. --BERNAMA 1729/00