

MAHATHIR-LONDON

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 21 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UMNO CLUBS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR LABELLING THE UMNO LEADERSHIP AS +AUTOCRATIC.+

+THERE IS NO AUTOOCRACY IN UMNO,+ AND WE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN LIBERAL IN PUTTING ASIDE STIPULATIONS IN THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE CLUBS TO TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE,+ HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY DELEGATES AT THE THREE-DAY UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

+ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, ONLY UMNO DELEGATES IN THE COUNTRY CAN SPEAK (AT THE ASSEMBLY).+

THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID HE REGRETTED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE HAD USED THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN HIM TO SPEAK AT THE ASSEMBLY TO MAKE PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP.

HE TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UMNO CLUB IN CAIRO PROTESTING AGAINST THE REMARKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM UMNO CLUBS. -- MORE

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THE LETTER SAID THE REPRESENTATIVE HAD ALSO FAILED TO BRING UP THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE UMNO CLUBS IN CAIRO AND KARACHI WHICH HE HAD PROMISED TO RAISE.

+WE ALLOWED HIM TO SPEAK AND HE SHOULD HAVE RAISED ISSUES DISCUSSED EARLIER WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM THE OTHER UMNO CLUBS OVERSEAS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE ALSO REPLIED TO THE QUESTION OF GIVING A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE REPRESENTATIVE, WAN ADNAN IDRIS, WHICH WAS RAISED DURING THE DEBATE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

HE SAID THE REPRESENTATIVE HAD ASKED HIM TO RECOMMEND HIM FOR A MARA SCHOLARSHIP AND HE HAD DONE SO. +BUT MARA REJECTED HIS APPLICATION NOT BECAUSE IT DID NOT WANT TO GIVE HIM A SCHOLARSHIP BUT BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY GIVEN HIM ONE BEFORE THIS.+

--BERNAMA 2216/PA