

PARLIAMENT-CRISIS

BM

83 P
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 11 (BERNAMA)--(DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REFUTED AN ALLEGATION THAT THE COUNTRY WAS FACING A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS FOLLOWING THE MOVE TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN PARLIAMENT RECENTLY.

+I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE NATION IS IN CRISIS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-KOTA MELAKA) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

HE TOLD THE OPPOSITION LEADER THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL 1983 HAD BEEN FORWARDED BY PARLIAMENT TO ISTANA NEGARA.

+THE BILL WILL BE GAZETTED AS SOON AS THE ROYAL ASSENT IS OBTAINED,+ HE SAID.

AS THE YANG DI-PERTUAN WAS INDISPOSED, IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE ROYAL ASSENT COULD BE OBTAINED, HE SAID.

TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK HASSAN MOHAMAD (HAMIM RANTAU PANJANG), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS HAD CARRIED REPORTS THAT THE COUNTRY HAD BEING FACING A CRISIS SINCE 1957.

+AS SUCH NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST SUCH PUBLICATIONS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 1620/OM

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ENCIK LIM THEN ASKED THAT IF THERE WAS NO CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS WHY DID THE GOVERNMENT BAN OR CENSOR REPORTS ON THE ISSUE CONTAINED IN FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SUCH REPORT TOUCHED ON THE PERSONS OF THE RULERS WHO COULD NOT REPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL POSITION.

TO AVOID CREATING ANY UNDESIRABLE SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO STOP SUCH REPORTS, HE SAID. --- BERNAMA 1630/OM