

MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION  
BM

83  
SEREMBAN, DEC. 2 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION ARE NOT AIMED AT GIVING HIM POWERS BUT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE ARE NOT VIOLATED AND IGNORED.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE AMENDMENTS CLARIFIED THE POWERS THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE AND ENSURED THAT THEIR ASPIRATIONS WERE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A COUNTRY THAT PRACTISED THE SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO PURPOSELY DISTORTED THE FACTS REGARDING THE AIMS OF THE AMENDMENTS BY ACCUSING HIM OF WANTING TO SEIZED POWER.

HE SAID THIS TO 50,000 PEOPLE WHO HAD GATHERED AT THE NSCRC PADANG HERE THIS MORNING AFTER HIS ARRIVAL TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SEREMBAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

THE PEOPLE -- MANY OF WHOM WERE FROM SELANGOR AND MELAKA,  
-- CARRIED BANNERS AND PLACARDS WITH PICTURES OF THE PRIME MINISTER.  
-- MORE 1435/ZI

MAHATHIR - CONSTITUTION 2 SEREMBAN

THEY SHOUTED +HIDUP MAHATHIR+ (LONG LIVE MAHATHIR) SEVERAL TIMES WHILE HE WAS DELIVERING HIS SPEECH, WHICH LASTED ABOUT 45 MINUTES, TO EXPLAIN THE ISSUE REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

+I PLEDGE HERE THAT I DO NOT HAVE ANY INTENTION OF SEEKING POWER.

+FOR ME, THE POWERS I HAVE ARE ADEQUATE,+ HE SAID TO A THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE AND SHOUTS OF +KAMI MAHU MAHATHIR+ (WE WANT MAHATHIR).

+UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SEVERAL GROUPS WHO PURPOSELY DISTORT THE ISSUE REGARDING THE AMENDMENTS AND CONFUSE THE PEOPLE BY SAYING THAT IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO SEIZE POWER BY THE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, IN PARTICULAR MYSELF,+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS AND THEIR ACTS HAD CREATED CONFUSION AMONG THE PEOPLE TO THE EXTENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO WORK TOWARDS THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN DISRUPTED. -- MORE 1515/SA  
MAHATHIR - CONSTITUTION 3 SEREMBAN

+I AM NOT IMPORTANT: WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE PEOPLE. AS SUCH, I AM ASKING THE PEOPLE NOT TO IDOLIZE ANYONE, INCLUDING ME,+ HE SAID WHEN THE CROWD SHOUTED +MAHATHIR, MAHATHIR+ FOLLOWED BY A LOUD APPLAUSE.

+THE QUESTION OF THE AMENDMENTS IS NOT A QUESTION FOR MAHATHIR BECAUSE I AM NOT IMPORTANT BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE,+ HE SAID.

THE CROWD AGAIN APPLAUDED AND SHOUTED +MERDEKA.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE AMENDMENTS HAD TO BE MADE BECAUSE OF SEVERAL LOOPHOLES IN THE CONSTITUTION WHICH DID NOT SPECIFY THE POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN A CLEAR MANNER AND THIS COULD HINDER THE PROGRESS OF THE NATION.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN THINGS IN THE CONSTITUTION WHICH WERE NOT SPECIFIC, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH PARLIAMENT AND STATE ASSEMBLIES AND THIS RESULTED IN SEVERAL EVENTS WHICH AFFECTED THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATES.  
-- MORE 1515/MB