

MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 12 (BERNAMA)-- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WOULD MEET THE RAJA MUDA OF PERAK TOMORROW TO CONSIDER THE NEW PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE RULERS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ISSUE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD SOME INDICATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE SULTANS' NEWS PROPOSALS AND WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT TOMORROW'S MEETING WOULD ARRIVE AT A DECISION AGREEABLE TO BOTH PARTIES - THE RULERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

+I AM BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, I WOULD SAY.. I AM ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC AND I HAVE TO BE,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE.

THE RULERS AT A MEETING AT ISTANA NEGARA YESTERDAY CAME OUT WITH A SET OF NEW PROPOSALS AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN A LETTER TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG ON FRIDAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE COUNTERPROPOSALS BY THE RULERS TO BE PRESENTED TO HIM AT THE MEETING TOMORROW DID NOT MEAN THAT THE RULERS REJECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

+WHAT THEY (THE SULTANS) ARE THINKING ABOUT IS SOME MODIFICATION OF OUR PROPOSALS AND THAT IS THE USUAL PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION,+ HE ADDED. --MORE 1300/MD

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HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, HE HAD NOT OFFICIALLY RECEIVED THE RULERS' NEW PROPOSALS AND +I AM WAITING FOR THEM+.

+WHATEVER THEY ARE, I WILL LOOK AT THEM AND CONSIDER THEM+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN, WHO WAS THE UNOFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING YESTERDAY, HAD GIVEN HIM SOME INDICATION OF WHAT THE SULTANS' PROPOSALS WERE.

HOWEVER HE COULD NOT REVEAL THE PROPOSALS AS THEY WERE BEING NEGOTIATED.

THE TIME AND VENUE OF TOMORROW'S MEETING HAD NOT BEEN FIXED BUT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WOULD ALSO BE ATTENDED BY THE RULERS' LEGAL ADVISER, RAJA AZIZ ADDRUSE AND +MAYBE OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL+.

ON HIS LETTER TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS A COUNTERPROPOSAL ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PART AND +WHICH WE THINK IS VEY REASONABLE AND WHICH SHOULD SATISFY BOTH SIDES+.

--MORE 1335/AN

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+WHAT EXACTLY THEY ARE I CANNOT SAY BUT WE HOPE OF COURSE THIS WILL SATISFY THE RULERS,+ HE ADDED.

IT IS UNDESTOOD THAT THE DEC. 9 LETTER SENT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG CONTAINED A REVISED VERSION OF THE UMNO COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH WAS FIRST REJECTED BY THE RULERS AT THE NOV. 20 MEETING WITH A HIGH-POWERED UMNO DELEGATION AT ISTANA BUKIT KAYANGAN IN SHAH ALAM.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE UMNO FORMULA SAYING THAT +I CAN'T CONFIRM ANYTHING BECAUSE THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS BEING NEGOTIATED+.

+IF I START HARDENING MY POSITION IN THE PRESS, THEN I HAVE NO MORE ROOM TO MOVE.

+WELL, WE WILL SEE WHEN THE FINAL RESULTS ARE OUT, WHETHER A WITHDRAWAL OR NOT WAS MADE + HE SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD WITHDRAWN SOME OF THE ORIGINAL FORMULA ON THE AMENDMENT.

--BERNAMA 1339/AN