

MAHATHIR-RELIEVE

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 16 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED RELIEF OVER THE SOLVING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ISSUE.

+I AM RELIEVED. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY,+ HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BERNAMA TODAY ON BOARD THE EXECUTIVE JET WHILE RETURNING FROM TERENGGANU AFTER A FOUR-HOUR VISIT.

IT IS LEARNT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED THE NEWS VIA HIS CAR PHONE AT 1 PM YESTERDAY WHILE UNDERGOING AN EYE CHECK-UP AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

HE SAID HE WAS SPECIALLY RELIEVED BECAUSE IF THE ISSUE DRAGGED ON, +THINGS MIGHT BE SAID AND DONE WHICH CANNOT BE UNDONE.+

HE ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS IN SECURING THE ROYAL ASSENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL TO THAT OF EVERYBODY INCLUDING THE PEOPLE. -- MORE 1905/SA

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HE SAID: +THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEGOTIATION. THE MATTER IS FINAL NOT ONLY TO ME BUT ALSO THE RULERS.+

+THE RULERS STAND ON THIS TOO IS FINAL,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE ACT AND IT WOULD ABIDE BY THE PROMISES IT MADE TO THE RULERS.

+AS THE RULERS WANT AN UNDERTAKING THAT THIS IS DONE, I GAVE A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING. WE WILL IN FACT CARRY OUT WHAT WE PROMISED TO DO,+ HE STRESSED.

ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF DURING THE COMING MONTHS, PRIOR TO THE HOLDING OF THE SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY SESSION THE RULERS DECIDE TO DISAGREE, THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF DISAGREEING.

+WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE WEAKNESSES IN CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE AMENDMENTS THAT HE OFTEN REFERRED TO PRIOR TO THIS HAD BEEN REMEDIED FOLLOWING THE SIGNING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MATTERS ARE NOW VERY CLEAR. --MORE 1907/MD

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+EVEN AFTER THE AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENTS ARE MADE, THE VAGUENESS WILL NO LONGER BE THERE,+ STRESSED HE.

HE ADVISED THE PEOPLE TO BE CALM AND THANKFUL TO GO THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN THE USUAL MALAYSIAN WAY.

DURING THE INTERVIEW THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ALSO ASKED ON THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE CERTAIN PEOPLE, THAT THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING THE ROYAL ASSENT TO THE BILL.

HE REPLIED: +WELL, THEY CAN CLAIM WHAT THEY LIKE. ANYBODY CAN MAKE ANY CLAIM.+ --BERNAMA 1910/MD