

MAHATHIR - RULERS

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE SULTANS HAVE GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING THAT THEY WILL NOT DELAY IN GIVING THE ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS PASSED BY THE RESPECTIVE STATE ASSEMBLIES AS HAPPENED IN PERAK AND IN PAHANG IN THE PAST, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TODAY.

'THE SULTANS HAVE GIVEN A VERBAL UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN,' THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY.

'WE TRUST THE RULERS ON THIS,' HE SAID.

'THE VERBAL UNDERSTANDING IS GOOD ENOUGH WE HAVE GONE THOUGH A VERY EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AND I THINK THE UNDERSTANDING IS GOOD ENOUGH,' HE ADDED. -- MORE 2018/II

HE REFERRED TO ARTICLE 150 CONCERNING THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY, AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ASK THE RULERS FOR ANY UNDERTAKING.

'WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL PROVISION,' HE ADDED.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO RIFT IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RULERS AND THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT IN AUGUST.

'WE HAVE NO PROBLEM. THE RELATIONSHIP IS AS USUAL,' HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT THE DISSATISFACTION VOICED BY THE SULTANS OF JOHORE AND KELANTAN AS REPORTED TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: 'WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT HAPPINESS BUT LEGISLATURE.'

'I AM QUITE SURE THAT THEY ARE RECONCILED TO IT,' HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT BEFORE THE ROYAL ASSENT WAS GIVEN BY THE TIMBALAN YANG DIPERTUAN AGONG, ALL THE RULERS WERE CONSULTED. 'FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THEY WERE ALL AWARE OF IT.' -- 2030/ZI

ON THE SULTAN OF JOHORE'S STATEMENT THAT UMNO WAS USED IN THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS ISSUE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: 'EVERYBODY IS ENTITLED TO HIS OPINION.'

ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN THE NATION'S HISTORY, HE SAID: 'THERE WAS NO CHALLENGE. IT WAS JUST THAT SOME TIME WAS TAKEN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.'

ASKED WHETHER HE FEARED FOR HIS SAFETY FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, HE SAID: 'I AM VULNERABLE.'

'BUT I AM STILL GOING AROUND THE COUNTRY' HE ADDED TO LAUGHTER FROM REPORTERS. -- BERNAMA 2040/ZI