

MAHATHIR-CRITICISM

BM

MELAKA, DEC. 19 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME OPENLY CRITICISED UMNO LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN SILENT AND HAD NOT VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ISSUE.

THESE LEADERS, HE SAID, ADOPTED A STAND WITH THE EXCUSE THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD KNOW THAT THEY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE WITHOUT THEM HAVING TO VOICE OUT THEIR SUPPORT OPENLY.

SEPAKING AT A RALLY ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 80,000 PEOPLE AT THE PADANG PAHLAWAN HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER DAID THAT LEADERS MUST MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE AND +GO TO THE PLACES TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE COMMITMENT OF THE LEADERS+.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THESE LEADERS HAD PUT THEIR SELF INTEREST ABOVE THAT OF THE PEOPLE.

+WE HAVE THOSE WHO PLAYED THEIR ROLE BEHIND THE SCENE LIKE TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN WHO PLAYED HENRY KISSENGER IN THE ISSUE. THESE -- LEADERS NEED NOT GO AND MEET THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 2100/PA NNNN

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT OTHERS SHOULD MEET THE PEOPLE TO EXPLAIN THE ACTUAL SITUATION ON THE ISSUE.

IF POSSIBLE, HE SAID, HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET ALL THE PEOPLE TO APOLOGISE THAT HE COULD NOT SHAKE THEIR HANDS BECAUSE OF SECURITY REASON.--BERNAMA 2101/PA