

MAHATHIR-FEUDAL

BM

83
MELAKA, DEC. 19 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SER DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FEUDAL PERIOD HAD LONG BEEN GONE.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY COULD NOT HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM ANY MORE AS THE TIMES HAD CHANGED.

+IN THE PAST, DURING THE DAYS OF HANG TUAH AND HANG JEBAT, THE PEOPLE DID NOT HAVE RIGHTS BUT TODAY WE CAN SEE DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHICH IS THE RESULT OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES DETERMINING THEIR OWN DESTINY,+ HE SAID.

+EVEN THOUGH WE RESPECT HANG TUAH FOR BEING SO LOYAL, TO THE EXTENT OF BEING PREPARED TO BE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR AN INSIGNIFICANT MATTER, THE SITUATION HAS NOW CHANGED,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THIS TO A GATHERING OF ABOUT 80,000 PEOPLE WHO HAD GATHERED AT THE PADANG PAHLAWAN HERE TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS SUCCESS IN RESOLVING THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT ISSUE.

+WE CAN NO LONGER HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM. THE FEUDAL SYSTEM HAS ENDED,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 2011/PA

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE BE DEFENDED BECAUSE ANYONE WHO DID NOT RESPECT THE PEOPLE WOULD FACE PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING POPULACE.

+OTHERS CANNOT INCREASE BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, BUT THE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN NUMBER+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION THE DECISION TAKEN BY PARLIAMENT WOULD BE THE FINAL DECISION.

DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR SAID THAT UNDER THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION THE POWER TO DECLARE EMERGENCY WOULD LIE WITH THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD ADVISE THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG.

+THIS IS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL. IF IN THE PAST THERE WASN'T THIS UNDERSTANDING, NOW AFTER THE PEOPLE HAD STATED THEIR STAND, THIS HAS BECOME CLEAR+, HE ADDED.

HE DESCRIBED THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS A LESSON FOR ALL; THAT IS, THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS OTHERS, NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT COULD BRING ABOUT ANXIETY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

--MORE 2044/AN

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+IF THE PEOPLE ARE WORRIED, MANYTHINGS CAN HAPPEN IF THEY FAIL, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE DEMANDS FOR OTHER ACTION WHICH CAN BRING ABOUT ILL-WEATHER TO THE NATION+, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT FORTUNATELY IT DID NOT COME TO THIS AND THE PROBLEM OVER THE AMENDMENTS WAS RESOLVED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE PEOPLE'S SYSTEM WAS EASY BECAUSE THEY COULD CHOOSE ANYONE THEY THINK SUITABLE TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY.

+IF I AM ELECTED PERMANENTLY AS PRIME MINISTER UNTIL MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WERE ELECTED PRIME MINISTERS, THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE DESTROYED, ... THIS I'M CONFIDENT OF+.

THE CROWD THEN SHOUTED +WE WANT MAHATHIR TO BE THE PRIME MINISTER FOR LIFE+.

HOWEVER, HE REPLIED: +(YOU SAY HTIS) WHEN YOU LIKE ME+.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE PEOPLE TO SHOUT +HIDUP MAHATHIR+ BECAUSE IT WAS NOT MAHATHIR WHO MADE THE PUBLIC BUT THE PUBLIC WHO MADE MAHATHIR.

--MORE 2050/AN

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THE PRIME MINISTER THEN SHOUTED +HIDUP RAKYAT+ FOLLOWED BY THOSE PRESENT THREE TIMES.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE NO LONGER WANTED HIS ADMINISTRATION THEY COULD +ASK ME TO GO BACK TO ALOR STAR TO PLANT PADI OR GO FISHING+.

HE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTERS MAY COME AND PRIME MINISTERS MAY GO BUT THE PEOPLE REMAIN FOREVER.

--BERNAMA 2055/AN