

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR (' R' R' R')
BM

8X (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 9 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE TODAY THAT THE NATION'S ADMINISTRATION WILL NO LONGER BE IMPEDED BY DOUBTS OVER THE PROVISION REGARDING THE ROYAL ASSENT FOR DECISIONS MADE BY PARLIAMENT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1984.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT ISSUE AS A RESULT OF SUCH DOUBTS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS WOULD NOT RECUR.

TABLING THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT, HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS CLEARLY STATED THE WAYS TO RESOLVE ANY DEADLOCK IF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG DID NOT AGREE WITH ANY OF THE SILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE ORIGINAL PROVISION OF ARTICLE 66(B) OF THE CONSTITUTION, PARLIAMENT COULD NOT TAKE ANY STEPS BASED ON THE CONSTITUTION TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG'S REFUSAL TO GIVE ASSENT TO ANY SILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

-- MORE 1642/BY
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE NEW AMENDMENTS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO OBJECT TO ANY BILL PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE OBJECTIONS OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG WILL BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT; SOMETHING THAT HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN DONE IN PARLIAMENT," HE SAID.

HE REMINDED THAT WHILE THERE WAS NO DIRECT PROHIBITION ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM MAKING SPECIFIC CRITICISMS AGAINST THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG AND THE RULERS, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND STATE ASSEMBLIES HAD NEVER INVOLVED HIS MAJESTY AND THE RULERS DURING THE DEBATE OR OTHER SPEECHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOM AND TRADITION. -- MORE 1705/HM

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HE SAID THAT THOUGH THIS WAS A DEPARTURE FROM CUSTOM AND TRADITION, IT WAS PERMISSIBLE UNDER ARTICLE 3(2) OF THE SEDITIONS ACT.

THE ARTICLE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STATE THAT AN ACT, SPEECH, WORDS, PUBLICATION OR OTHER THING SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE SEDITIOUS BY REASON ONLY THAT IT HAS A TENDENCY:

- TO SHOW THAT ANY RULER HAS BEEN MISLED OR MISTAKEN IN ANY
- . OF HIS MEASURES:
- . TO POINT OUT ERRORS OR DEFECTS IN ANY GOVERNMENT OR CONSTITUTION AS BY LAW ESTABLISHED. OR IN LEGISLATION OR IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE WITH A VIEW TO THE REMEDYING OF THE ERRORS OR DEFECTS? AND
- . TO PERSUADE THE SUBJECTS OF ANY RULER OR THE INHABITANTS OF ANY TERRITORY GOVERNED BY ANY GOVERNMENT TO ATTEMPT TO PROCURE BY LAWFUL MEANS THE ALTERNATION OF ANY MATTER IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RULER OR GOVERNED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS LAW ESTABLISHED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE SEDITION ACT WAS STILL IN FORCE AND MP'S MUST EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN MAKING CRITICISMS INVOLVING THE RULERS OR THE GOVERNMENT.

-- MORE 1730/AZ

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"BECAUSE THE RULERS DO NOT TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE, THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE TO REBUT THE CRITICISMS AND IF NECESSARY TAKE LEGAL ACTION UNDER THE APPROPRIATE ACT," HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT CERTAIN CONSTITUTION EXPERTS FELT THAT NEW AMENDMENTS GAVE NEW POWER TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE DRAFTING OF LAWS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG AS A MATTER OF FACT HAD THE POWER NOT TO GIVE ASSENT TO ANY BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

NEVERTHELESS, WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT UNDER THE ORIGINAL PROVISION OF ARTICLE 66 (5), PARLIAMENT WAS NOT ABLE TO TAKE ANY MOVES TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OVER THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG'S REFUSAL TO GIVE ASSENT TO THE BILLS PASSED, HE SAID.

-MORE 1732/HM

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS THANKFUL THAT THE PROBLEM OVER THE AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN A GIVE-AND-TAKE MANNER AND THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE MATTER COULD BE SEEN FROM THE PROPOSALS IT MADE.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE HAD THE FINAL SAY WAS RETAINED DESPITE THE COMPROMISE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WITHOUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFUSION WHICH HAD IN SOME WAY AFFECTED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RULERS AND THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MUST BE BORNE BY THOSE WHO PURPOSELY TRIED TO CREATE PROBLEMS WHEN IN FACT THERE SHOULD BE NONE.

"THESE PEOPLE CAN BE SAID TO BE OPPORTUNITIES WHO WISH TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY BESET BY CATASTROPHES," HE ADDED. -- MORE 1752/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION INDISCRIMINATELY BUT BECAUSE THE PERIOD FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE ELECTION CONSTITUENCIES EXPIRED LAST YEAR.

HE SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN TO REVISIONS WHICH WERE NOT SPECIFIC OR WERE INADEQUATE, INCLUDING ARTICLE 66 (5).

THE ORIGINAL PROVISION COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PARLIAMENT ACTUALLY NOT HAVING POWER AND THE NATION RULED BY THE RULER WHO HAD ULTIMATE POWER AND WAS NOT SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS HAD CREATED INSTANCES IN SOME STATES WHICH AT ONE TIME WERE RULED NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS.

THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL LAST YEAR CLEARLY SHOWED THE INADEQUACY OF ARTICLE 66 (5), HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS OF SEVERAL MONTHS TO DRAFT THE BILLS WERE HAMPERED AND IN ADDITION AROSE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER MALAYSIA REALLY PRACTISED THE SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY. -- MORE 1832/HM

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOREIGNERS AND EVEN CERTAIN MAGAZINES, HAD BECOME ROYALISTS +IN THE TWINKLE OF AN EYE+ AND GAVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO CERTAIN GROUPS SO THAT A PROLONGED CRISIS WOULD PREVAIL IN MALAYSIA.

WITHIN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HAD LOST FAVOUR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS OSTENSIBLY TO SHOW THAT THEY TRULLY SUPPORTED THE SYSTEM OF ABSOLUTE MONARCHY.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THOSE PEOPLE STARTED THE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT PARTY HAD TO HOLD RALLIES TO ERASE THE DOUBTS FROM ITS MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC. -- BERNAMA 1900/HM