

PARLIAMENT-STUDENTS

En

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA)--PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT REGRETTED THE ACTION OF SOME OVERSEAS MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WHO ADVOCATED THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH VIOLENCE AND REVOLUTION.

HE SAID THESE +MILITANT+ STUDENTS ENJOYED LEVELLING CRITICISMS AT THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY WERE +GIVEN THE PAT ON THE BACK+ BY LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES THEY WERE STUDYING IN.

REPLYING TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM OPPOSITION LEADER ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-KOTA MELAKA), HE SAID THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THESE STUDENTS WERE NOT IN CONSONANT WITH THEIR ROLE AS MALAYSIAN +AMBASSADORS+ TO THE COUNTRIES THEY WERE IN.

DAYUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST STUDENTS WHO CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE, M E SAID, IT WAS THEIR RIGHTS.

HE DENIED THAT HIS VISIT TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES RECENTLY RESULTED IN THE GOVERNMENT ASKING THESE STUDENTS TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ACTIONS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM.--MORE 1735/HM
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REPLYING TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION FROM ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-KUALA LUMPUR BANDAR), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO CANADA, FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY, HE WAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE BY THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED THAT MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

MORE UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA, HE SAID, WOULD CONSIDER RECOGNISING THE BIJIL TINGGI PECAJARAN-MALAYSIA (STPM).

FRANCE HAD AGREED TO STEP UP COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA IN THE EDUCATION FIELD AND A JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP SOON TO PURSUE THE MATTER, HE SAID.

MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DAYUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT WAS NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE OVER AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS OVERSEAS.

SUCH AFFAIRS, HE SAID, WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY A COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY HIM WITH MEMBERS COMPRISING SEVERAL MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.--MORE 1740/HM

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STUDENTS' AFFAIRS ABROAD WERE TAKEN CARE OF BY A COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE HEAD OF MALAYSIAN MISSIONS.

HE REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS FROM STUDENTS ABROAD --BERNAMA 1740/HM