

MAHATHIR-MARRIAGE

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KULIM, APRIL 20 (BERNAMA) -- MEN IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT USE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING THE POPULATION TO 70 MILLION IN THE NEXT 115 YEARS AS AN EXCUSE TO HAVE FOUR WIVES, DATU SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE POLICY ENVISAGED THAT EACH COUPLE SHOULD HAVE FIVE CHILDREN.

"THEREFORE, THE MEN SHOULD NOT GO HOME AND TELL THEIR WIVES THAT DR MAHATHIR ASKED THEM TO HAVE FOUR WIVES:

"I DID NOT ASK THEM TO HAVE FOUR WIVES BECAUSE IT IS OF NO USE IF THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN AFTER HAVING FOUR WIVES," HE SAID TO MUCH LAUGHTER FROM THE DELEGATES WHEN OPENING THE PADANG SERAI UMNO DIVISIONAL DELEGATES' MEETING - HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A SUGGESTION BY THE HEAD OF THE DIVISION, ENCIK MAHMUD 'MAT ZAIN, THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MEN TO HAVE FOUR WIVES WITHOUT HAVING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THEIR FIRST WIFE. --MORE 1600/AJ

ZCZC NO60 (F/S)  
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DATU SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED THAT HE HAD MADE HIS OWN CALCULATION KNOWN AS "MAHATHIR CALCULATION" AND FOUND THAT THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY WAS THE SAME.

"IF MEN MARRY MORE THAN ONE THAN IT WOULD SPOIL THE CHANCES OF WOMEN," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE POPULATION INCREASE IN MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BRING ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS AS ALL CITIZENS WOULD HAVE A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. --BERNAMA 1601/AJ