

MAHATHIR-CABINET

84 (A)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE CAN ACT, ON ANY COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IF CABINET MINISTERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS REACT POSITIVELY TO THE GROUSES AISED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS IN A DIFFICULT PREDICAMENT AS THE COMPLAINTS MADE TO HIM INCLUDING THOSE BY SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND BUSINESSMEN WERE SOMETIMES NEGATIVELY RECEIVED BY CABINET MINISTERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

"SOMETIMES PEOPLE WHO ARE SUBORDINATES OR BUSINESSMEN COMPLAINED, TO ME ABOUT, CERTAIN THINGS AND I FIND MYSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION.

"IF I MENTION THE COMPLAINTS? THE CABINET MINISTERS OR SENIOR OFFICIALS JUMP TO CONCLUSION THAT SO AND SO INFORM ME AND THEN TAKE IT OUT ON THE PEOPLE WHO INFORMED ME." HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

HE WAS ELABORATING ON HIS RECENT DIRECTIVE TO CABINET MINISTERS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO REACT POSITIVELY TO COMPLAINTS AGAINST THEM. -- MORE 1910/WS

MAHATHIR-CABINET 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT UNLESS THE CABINET MINISTERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LEARNT TO REACT BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE RATHER THAN THE WAY THE COMPLAINTS HAD REACHED HIM, THEN HE WOULD BE IN NO POSITION TO CORRECT THE WRONGS.

"SO I AM ASKING THEM NOT TO FEEL OFFENDED IF SOMETHING THEY DO IS WRONG AND PEOPLE COME TO ME TELLING ME THEIR GROUSES, INVARIABLY I CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTERS AND OFFICERS CONCERNED.

"IF THEIR ATTITUDE IS CORRECT, THEN WE CAN OVERCOME THE PROBLEM BUT IF THE ATTITUDE IS ONE OF TAKING IT OUT OR TAKING REVENGE ON ANYBODY WHO COMPLAINS, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO WORK."

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE INSTANCES OF CABINET MINISTER OR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS MAKING DIFFERENT ASSESMENT OF A PROBLEM, THINKING THAT IT DID NOT MERIT ANY HELP OR ACTION IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS. -- BERNAMA 1915/WS