

' 'SHOW US THE EVIDENCE WE ARE CORRUPT' ' : MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS HE WOULD HAVE +KICKED OUT+ ANY MINISTER IN HIS CABINET IF THE ALLEGATION OF CORRUPTION AMONG THE MINISTERS, AIRED DURING LAST MONTH'S JALIL IBRAHIM MURDER TRIAL IN HONG KONG, HAD BEEN SHOWN TO BE TRUE.

IN CRITICISING THE WAY THE AUTHORITIES IN THE COLONY INVESTIGATED THE MURDER AND CONDUCTED THE TRIAL, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDS: +SHOW US THE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE CORRUPT.+

HIS REMARKS ARE CONTAINED IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF ASIAWEEK. BESIDES LAST WEEKEND'S UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE WAS ALSO REFERRED TO HONG KONG'S INVESTIGATION OF THE BMF ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S MURDER AND THE CAUTIONED STATEMENTS OF CONVICTED FELLOW MALAYSIAN MAK FOON THAN, WHICH IMPLICATED MALAYSIAN MINISTERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS: +WE ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT THAT IS INCORRUPTIBLE. WHEN SOMEONE SAYS MINISTERS REGULARLY SENT PEOPLE TO HONG KONG TO COLLECT MONEY, THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS FULL OF CURUPT MINISTERS.

+SHOW US THE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE CORRUPT ... WE WERE TOLD ABOUT A STATEMENT WE THOUGHT WAS RELEVANT TO THE CASE.

+I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO COME OUT WITH SOMETHING THAT SHOWED HOW SO-AND-SO HAD BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE MURDER AND SO ON.

+BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO KNOW IF THERE WAS INDEED A MINISTER IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAD DONE THIS. I WOULD HAVE KICKED HIM OUT. +

THE PRIME MINISTER DREW A 'PARALLEL -- +SUPPOSE IN A TRIAL IN MALAYSIA WE SUDDENLY MAKE A STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG X9 CORRUPT AND SENT PEOPLE REGULARLY TO MALAYSIA' -- TO COLLECT BRIBES.

+THEN WE SAY IT IS JUST A STATEMENT, NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRIAL. THE GOVERNOR WOULD HAVE NO MEANING OF DEFENDING HIMSELF, AND WE CAN GO AROUND AND TELL PEOPLE HONG KONG'S IS A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAY9 THAT +FOR NO APPARENT REASON + MAH'S CAUTIONED STATEMENT WAS +AIRED IN COURT AND FLASHED AROUND THE WORLD. +

LATER, HE ADDS, THE COURT SAID IT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH OF THAT STATEMENT, WHICH (RENDERS) IT IRRELEVANT TO THE TRIAL. +

+WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO REVEAL THIS STATEMENT IN COURT THEN, + THE PRIME MINISTER ASKS. +WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO IMPLICATE THE MINISTERS OF THIS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THEN SAY WE DON'T CARE IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT?

+WHY ALLOW IT TO BE REVEALED WITHOUT GIVING THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT A CHANCE TO CLEAR ITSELF? +

ON BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE, THE BANK BUMIPUTRA SUBSIDIARY IN HONG KONG WHICH LENT ALMOST \$2 BILLION TO THE NOW-COLLAPSED CARRIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE HONG KONG POLICE HAD TO INVESTIGATE BMF AS WELL BECAUSE JALIL WAS INVOLVED IN IT.

+BUT WE DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE TAKING AWAY COMPANY DOCUMENTS AND HANDING THEM OVER TO THE SECURITIES COMMISSION. IT SEEMED THEY WERE USING THE JALIL INVESTIGATION TO INVESTIGATE BMF AS WELL.

+BMF MAY HAVE BEEN FOOLISH TO LEND AND LOSE MONEY IN HONG KONG, BUT IT IS NOT A CRIME TO LOSE MONEY. THERE MUST BE SOME CHARGE TO INVESTIGATE AN INSTITUTION. +

HE SAYS THAT BECAUSE HONG KONG HAS NO REPRESENTATION HERE, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTED TO THE BRITISH, WHO CONTACTED HONG KONG, +WHICH IN TURN SAID THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS EVERY RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE ANYBODY IT LIKES. *

+THE MATTER ENDED THERE, BUT THEN CAME THIS TRIAL, * HE ADDS.
-- BERNAMA -- 2141/RAS