

MAHATHIR - INDIANS

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PETALING JAYA, JULY 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT OPPOSITION PARTIES THAT TRIED TO +FISH IN-TROUELED WATERS+ BY PLAYING UP THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S IMPOSITION OF VISA REQUIREMENT ON MALAYSIANS WISHING TO VISIT INDYA.

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS HAD PLAYED ON THE SENTIMENTS OF MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN OVER THE M A T T E R .

+THE ATTITUDE OF THE OPPOSITION RAISES A LOT OF QUESTIONS. COULD IT BE THAT THEY WANT MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN TO BE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY?+ HE ASKED WHEN OPENING THE 32ND MIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

HE SAID THAT AS A HATTER OF PRINCIPLE7 NO ONE IN THIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

+BECAUSE OF THEIR GREED FOR INFLUENCE, THEY EVEN IGNORED THIS. PRINCIPLE+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY ACTION TAKEN BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

+INDIA IS A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN OUR GOOD FRIEND FOR A LONG TIME. WE RESPECT COUNTRIES THAT RESPECT MALAYSIA AS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR:MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT THE MIC HA@ BEEN ATTACKED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR NOT WANTING TO GET INVOLVED IN THE VISA ISSUE.

HE PRAISE@ THE PARTY FOR ITS STAND IN NOT WANTING TO BECOME INVOLVED AND FOR NOT COMMENTING EVEN A WORD ON THE MATTER.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD IGNORE THE ACTIONS OF THE OPPOSITION WHOM HE SAID LIKED TO +MAKE NOISE HERE AND THERE+ SO MUCH SO THAT AT TIMES, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT THEY WERE FUSSING ABOUT.-- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE POLITICAL MATURITY OF MALAYSIANS WAS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF AND THIS MATURED THINKING OF THE PEOPLE WAS FEARED BY THOSE WHO LIKED TO +MAKE NOISE HERE AND THERE\*.

HE DID NOT DENY THAT THERE WERE GROUPS WHO WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE OPPOSITION BUT SAID THEIR NUMBER WAS SMALL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE DID NOT RESPECT THOSE WHO WERE EVER READY WITH CRITICISM BUT DID NOT HAVE THE FAINTEST I D E A HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. -- EERNAMA.