

MAHATHIR-BMF

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 15 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL RELEASE THE REPORT ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) SCANDAL AFTER STUDYING IT, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

+I WILL NOT COVER UP FOR ANYONE,+ HE SAID TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH UMNO LEADERS FROM 114 DIVISIONS AT THE RISDA AUDITORIUM HERE.

THE REPORT BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY AUDITOR-GENERAL TAN SRI AHMAD NOORDIN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO BANK NEGARA.

HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE REPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONCEAL.

ASKED WHETHER THE REPORT WOULD BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT HE SAID LIKE IT OR NOT THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AND THERE WAS NO WAY THE GOVERNMENT COULD STOP A DEBATE ON IT.

ON THE TAKE-OVER OF BANK BUMIPUTRA BY PETRONAS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MOVE WOULD NOT REQUIRE PETRONAS TO PRODUCE MORE OIL OR GAS BECAUSE IT HAD ENOUGH FUNDS.

ONLY PETRONAS HAD THE CAPABILITY TO TAKE OVER THE BANK, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT WITH EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT BANK BUMIPUTRA WOULD EVENTUALLY RECOVER.

ON PRIVATIZATION HE SAID PETRONAS ITSELF WOULD NOT BE PRIVATIZED BUT PART OF ITS DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES WOULD BE.

PETRONAS WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE THE SCOPE OF ITS ROLE AND STICK TO BEING A RAW MATERIAL PRODUCER. -- BERNAMA