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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT GROUPS WHICH NOT ONLY ARE TRYING TO CAUSE THE DOWNFALL OF THE MALAY LEADERS BUT ALSO TO DESTROY BANK BUMIPUTRA BY CONNECTING IT WITH THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) LOANS AFFAIR.

+THERE ARE ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE BANK BUMIPUTRA IN THE BMF LOANS AFFAIR AND IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS ALSO AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT BANK BUMIPUTRA,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+IT APPEARS THAT BY USING THE BMF ISSUE, THESE PEOPLE NOT ONLY ARE TRYING TO OUST THE MALAY LEADERS BUT ALSO, IF POSSIBLE, TO COMPLETELY DESTROY BANK BUMIPUTRA,+ HE SAID AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING.

THE PRIME MINISTER, LOOKING VISIBLY ANGRY, STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNEW THOSE CONCERNED AND THEIR INTENTION IN CARRYING OUT THEIR ACTIONS. ,

THOUGH HE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY THEM, IT IS CLEAR THAT HIS REMARKS ARE DIRECTED AT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE DAP, AND OTHERS WITH VESTED INTEREST WHO HAD BEEN ISSUING STATEMENTS CONDEMNING BANK BUMIPUTRA, WHICH HAD BEEN APPEARING IN THE PRESS ALMOST DAILY.

+MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MAKING VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BANK BUMIPUTRA WHEN IN FACT THE MATTER INVOLVES BMF,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REGRETTED THE +OBSESSION+ OF AN ENGLISH TABLOID IN SENSATIONALIZING THE MATTER AND INVOLVING BANK BUMIPUTRA BY EXTRACTING PARTS FROM AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE PMF AFFAIR PREPARED BY A COMMITTEE HEADED BY AUDITOR-GENERAL TAN SRI AHMAD NOORDIN.

SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHAT HE REGRETTED MOST WAS THAT THE REPORT WAS STILL CONFIDENTIAL AND HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED BY THE CABINET THIS MORNING.

+IT LOOKS LIKE THE DAILY CONCERNED IS CONTINUING TO DISCREDIT BANK BUMIPUTRA,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

+WE KNOW WHO IS INVOLVED AND THEIR INTENTION AND MEANING.+ ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ACTION, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT COULD STAND UP IN COURT.

EARLIER, THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAD HIT OUT AT THE NEWSPAPER FOR WRITING ABOUT THE INTERIM REPORT AND URGED THE HOME MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE THOSE WHO HAD LEAKED THE REPORT TO THE NEWSPAPER CONCERNED.

THE CHAMBER'S DEPUTY PRESIDENT, ENCIK HOHAMAD IZAT EMIR, HAD SAID THAT THE LEAKAGE WAS AIMED AT DISCREDITING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY. -- PERNAMA.

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