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MAHATHXR - WHITE PAPER
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KUALALUMPUR, NOV. 7 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REBUTTED ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TABLING OF A WHITE PAPER ON THE ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS IN PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY WILL CAUSE THE PROPOSED UMNO-PAS DEBATE TO BE CALLED OFF.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TABLING OF THE WHITE PAPER DID NOT HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE DEBATE SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY AND TO BE TELECAST LIVE BY TV MALAYSIA.

+WHAT HAS THE DEBATE GOT TO DO WITH THE WHITE PAPER?+ HE ASKED WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEBATE BEING CANCELLED FOLLOWING THE TABLING OF THE WHITE PAPER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE TABLING OF THE WHITE PAPER WAS TO FULFILL A PLEDGE BY THE GOVERNMENT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM REGARDING RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS.

YESTERDAY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSAHITAM, SAID THAT HE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HOME MINISTER, WOULD TABLE THE WHITE PAPER WHICH WOULD CONTAIN DETAILS ON ACTIVITIES THAT COULD THREATEN THE NATION'S PEACE AND SECURITY.

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MAHATHIR-WHITE PAPER 2 KUALALUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED TO PRODUCE A WHITE PAPER FOLLOWING THE DETENTION OF THREE PEOPLE UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT ON JULY 10 ON SUSPICION OF CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES THAT COULD CAUSE DISUNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE MALAYS AND MUSLIMS.

THOSE DETAINED WERE THE PAS STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR JERAM, TERENGGANU, ENCIK 'ABU BAKAR CHIK', 30, ENCIK BUNIYAMIN HAJI YAKOB, 38, AND BUSINESSMAN MOHAMED SABU, 30.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE WHITE PAPER WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO DETAIN THE THREE.

HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HOPED, THROUGH THE WHITE PAPER, TO RESOLVE THE +KAFIR-MENKAFIR+ (ACCUSING OTHERS OF BEING INFIDELS) ISSUE.

HE SAID! +IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THE ACTIONS IT HAD TAKEN WHICH COULD CAUSE CONFUSION AMONG THE PUBLIC.+ -- BERNAMA.

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