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U E027 AAE
MAHATHIR -BMF 2 KUALA LUMPUR '84

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 16 (BERNAMA) --- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DECLINED TO COMMENT ON A REPORT BY A LOCAL NEWSPAPER THAT THE AHMAD NOORDIN INQUIRY COMMITTEE HAS GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT TILL TODAY TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CERTAIN PEOPLE MENTIONED IN ITS SECOND REPORT ON THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) LOANS SCANDAL. THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS APPROACHED BY REPORTERS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE THIS EVENING, ALSO DECLINED TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN 'SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT AS REPORTED.

+WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK THE NEWSPAPER CONCERNED. THE NEWSPAPER SEEMS TO KNOW MORE THAN I, HE SAID. -- MORE
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U E030 AAE
MAHATHIR-BMF 2 KUALA LUMPUR '84

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, QUOTING BANKING SOURCES, THE COMMITTEE* DECIDED TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A WEEK (FROM FRIDAY:) TO TAKE ACTION IN VIEW OF ACCUSATIONS THAT THE INTERIM REPORT MADE PUBLIC BY FINANCE MINISTER ENCIK DAIM ZAINUDDIN ON NOV. 12 DID NOT PROPOSE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE CULPRITS.

THE REPORT ALSO SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD STATED IN A COVERING NOTE THAT IF NO ACTION WAS TAKEN, THEY WOULD MAKE THE REPORT PUBLIC.

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED AN ULTIMATUM FROM THE COMMITTEE? THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON SPECULATIONS.

TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT HE WAS REFUTING THE REPORT, HE SAID: +NO COMMENT. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ONLY GAVE A SMILE WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED THE SECOND REPORT. -- MORE
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U E031 AAE
MAHATHIR-BMF 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ANOTHER REPORT BY THE SAME NEWSPAPER THAT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, TAN SRI APU TALIB OTHMAN, WAS STUDYING A COMMITTEE REPORT TO SEE IF LEGAL ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN THE BMF LOANS SCANDAL. MEANWHILE, TAN. SRI AHMAD NOORDIN ZAKARIA WAS REPORTED BY ANOTHER

LOCAL NEWSPAPER THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED TO BANK BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA BERHAD A SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL REPORT PROPOSING THAT LEGAL ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST CERTAIN BMF OFFICERS.

HE WAS SAID TO HAVE HANDED OVER THE REPORT TO THE BANK'S EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN DA NAWAWI MAT AWIN.

THE REPORT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT DR NAWAWI SECURED THE ADVICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL BEFORE TAKING SUCH ACTION. --- BERNAMA

2015MST 16 11 84
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