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PARLIAMENT-BOUNDARIES R R R R
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KUALALUMPUR, DEC. 6 (BERNAMA) -- THE INCREASE IN AND CHANGES TO THE PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE TO PROVIDE THE PEOPLE WITH MORE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

TABLED A MOTION IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT SEEKING APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION'S REPORT ON THE REVISION AND DELINEATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE INCREASE IN PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE SEATS WAS IN LINE WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AND THE POPULATION GROWTH.

HE SAID THE DELINEATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WAS CONSONANT WITH THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED THE PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT AND DID NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE TO IT.

HE SAID THE REVISION AND DELINEATION WERE BEING DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 1(2) ARTICLE 113 OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REVISION.

AND DELINEATION OF ALL STATE AND PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES AFTER A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN EIGHT YEARS FROM THE LAST REVISION.

HE NOTED THAT THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) 1983 ACT WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON AUG 3 LAST YEAR UNDER WHICH ARTICLE 46 WAS AMENDED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT FROM 154 TO 176.

AT A SESSION IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE HOUSE ALSO APPROVED THE CREATION OF ANOTHER PARLIAMENT SEAT --- FOR THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN -- UNDER THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENTS NO. 2 BILL).

WITH THIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS WOULD BE 177.

FOLLOWING THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN THE STATES OF MALAYA EXCEPT FOR MELAKA AMENDED THEIR CONSTITUTIONS.

WITH THE AMENDMENTS, THE ELECTION COMMISSION NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE REVISION TO DIVIDE THE STATES INTO PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES AND PROPOSE WHATEVER CHANGES DEEMED NECESSARY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAD PREPARED THE REPORT BASED ON PROCEDURES PROVIDED FOR IN PART 11 SCHEDULE 13 OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

THE REVISION AND DELINEATION WERE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN PART I SCHEDULE 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION.

THE REPORT WAS ALSO SUBMITTED TO HIM ON NOV 8 AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 8 SCHEDULE 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND TABLED IN THE HOUSE AS STATUTE WORKING PAPER NO. 198, 1984.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOR DELINEATION PURPOSES OF THE ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES, CLAUSE (6) ARTICLE 113 OF THE CONSTITUTION HAD DIVIDED MALAYSIA INTO SEPARATE REVISION UNITS:

+ THE STATES OF MALAYA (INCLUDING THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR AND THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN);

+ SABAH AND

+ SARAWAK WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE REVISION AT PRESENT.

AS MALAYSIA WAS DIVIDED INTO SEPARATE REVISION UNITS, THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT SEPARATE REPORTS, ONE FOR THE STATES OF MALAYA AND THE OTHER FOR SABAH.

SARAWAK WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE REVISION THIS TIME BECAUSE A REVISION FOR ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES IN THE STATE WAS HELD SEPARATELY IN 1977, HE SAID.

ACTION WAS TAKEN AT STATE LEVEL, EXCEPT IN MELAKA AND SABAH, TO AMEND STATE CONSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASE IN NUMBER OF STATE SEATS.

THE SEATS FOR THE STATES OF MALAYA INCREASED FROM 312 TO 351.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BASIS FOR THE REVISION WAS THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AS AT DECEMBER 1982. -- MORE

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PARLIAMENT-BOUNDARIES KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF VOTERS IN THE STATES OF MALAYA, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR AND THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN, WAS 5,279,278.

HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF VOTERS WAS BASED ON THE 1982 ELECTORAL ROLLS BECAUSE THE INCREASE IN THE ELECTORATE FROM 1982 TO 1984 WAS ONLY 58,056 OR 1.11 PER CENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN CARRYING OUT THE REVISION, THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAD BASED IT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DELINEATION AS CONTAINED IN PART I SCHEDULE 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND HAD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ABIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNED. --
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