

0053

B E672 AAE

PARLIAMENT - COMMISSION

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

TODAY DISMISSED THE DAP CLAIM IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS INFLUENCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS REVISION AND DELINEATION OF PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE CONSTITUENCIES.

HE CRITICIZED THE OPPOSITION PARTY FOR ALLEGING THAT THE INCREASE IN SEATS FOCUSED ON THE RURAL AREAS BECAUSE THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT WANTED TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION THROUGH MALAY VOTES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON HIS MOTION THAT THE DEWAN APPROVE THE ELECTION COMMISSION'S REPORT ON THE REVISION AND DELINEATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES. THE REPORT WAS PASSED WITH 89 VOTES IN FAVOUR AND EIGHT (DAP) AGAINST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF THE DAP ALLEGATION WAS TRUE THE REPORT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE PRESENT FORM +BECAUSE THERE IS CERTAINLY MORE I CAN DO FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT+ IN THE REVISION EXERCISE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GAP REASONING THAT THE ADDITIONAL SEATS IN THE RURAL AREAS WOULD BENEFIT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FALLACIOUS BECAUSE OF THE PAS CAN OPPOSITION PARTY'S PRESENCE IN THE RURAL AREA 3

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GAP ALLEGATION THAT BREAKING UP THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN THE TOWNS WOULD SPLIT THE CHINESE VOTES WAS ALSO NOT TRUE BECAUSE IT WAS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE DAP FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON THE URBAN VOTES.

IN FACT BREAKING UP THE CONSTITUENCIES IN THIS WAY DID NOT BENEFIT THE BARISAN NASIONAL BECAUSE IT WAS SQUEEZED BETWEEN THE DAP INFLUENCE IN THE TOWNS AND THE PAS STRONGHOLD IN THE RURAL AREAS.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE REPORT BECAUSE THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS AN INDEPENDENT BODY AND THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS NOT AFRAID OF ANY INFLUENCES BECAUSE IT FOUGHT FOR THE INTEREST OF ALL COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE DAP CLAIM THAT THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS FAVOURING THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE DAP OBJECTIONS TO THE DELINEATION WERE REJECTED WAS ALSO NOT ACCEPTABLE.

MANY OBJECTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES WERE ALSO REJECTED AND IF THE DAP WAS STILL DISSATISFIED WITH THE REPORT IT COULD TABLE A MOTION IN THE DEWAN FOR THE DELINEATION TO BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE PERSON ONE VOTE AND COMMUNAL GROUPING. --MORE

2233MST 06 12 84

0077

B E675 AAE

PARLIAMENT - COMMISSION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE ATTITUDE OF THE DAP WHICH DID NOT LOSE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE ITS OPINION ON ANY ISSUE THROUGH THE COMMUNAL VIEWPOINT WHICH HE SAID SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING TO CHECK COMMUNAL POLARIZATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE PARTY HAD NOT LEARNT FROM ITS MISTAKE WHICH CAUSED IT MANY PARLIAMENTARY SEATS FOR PLAYING UP THE COMMUNAL ISSUE IN THE 1982 GENERAL ELECTION.

HE CONCEDED THAT UMNO WAS A PARTY FOR THE MALAYS BUT STRESSED THAT IT ALWAYS COOPERATED WITH THE BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES AND FOUGHT FOR THE INTEREST OF THE MALAYS WITHOUT RELEGATING THOSE OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

THE DEWAN ALSO APPROVED THE REPORT ON DELINEATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR SABAH TABLED BY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK KHALIL, WITHOUT ANY DEBATE.

THE REPORT SUGGESTED THAT THE SARAH PARLIAMENTARY SEATS BE INCREASED FROM 16 TO 20. -- MORE

2256MST 06 12 A!

0078

B E676 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-COMMISSION 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DURING THE DEBATE THE DAP, THROUGH ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL, ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG, CAME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST THE NEW DELINEATION.

ENCIK LIM ALLEGED THAT THE NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WOULD FURTHER INCREASE THE POLITICAL IMBALANCE AMONG THE COMMUNITIES WITHOUT PAVING HEED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE PERSON ONE VOTE.

HE SAID THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAD TOTALLY DISREGARDED THIS PRINCIPLE IN DRAWING UP ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WHERE THE UNDER

REPRESENTATION OF VOTERS IN THE TOWNS WAS SO SERIOUS THAT ONE VOTE IN THE RURAL AREAS WAS EQUIVALENT TO MORE THAN THREE VOTES IN THE TOWNS.

ENCIK OTHMAN ABDUL (BN-ULUMUDA), WHO SUPPORTED THE MOTION DESCRIBED DAP MEMBERS AS BEING SELF-INTERESTED AND NOT THINKING RATIONALLY IN OPPOSING THE DELINEATION.

DATUK HAJI SAIDIN MAT PIAH (BN-PADANG RENGAS) SAID IT WAS NOT CORRECT FOR THE DAP TO ACCUSE THE ELECTION COMMISSION AS A BODY THAT WAS NOT FREE FROM POLITICS.

DR CHEN LAM HIN (DAP-SEREMBAN) OPPOSED THE REVISION DESCRIBING IT AS A DELIBERATE STRATEGY TO THWART THE OPPOSITION AND REINFORCE THE POWER OF THE RULING PARTY.

HE URGED THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE DIVISION OF PARLIAMENTARY WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT BALANCED.

HE SAID THAT APART FROM STRENGTHENING UMNO'S POSITION THE REVISION INFRINGED ON THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WHICH GUARANTEED EQUAL RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE.

DR TAN SENGGIAW (DAP-KEPONG) CLAIMED THAT THE REVISION WAS NOT FAIR IN THAT THE VOTING POWER OF THE RURAL RESIDENTS WAS STRONGER THAN THAT OF THOSE IN THE TOWNS.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE MOVE WAS AIMED AT INCREASING THE STRENGTH OF THE VOTERS IN THE RURAL AREAS THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE MALAYS AND REDUCING THE VOTING STRENGTH OF THE NON-MALAYS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN DETERMINING THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES, FACTORS LIKE GIVING STRONGER REPRESENTATION TO RURAL RESIDENTS TO HELP THEM DEVELOP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BUT PRIORITY FOR THE REMOTE AREAS SHOULD NOT BECOME SO IMPORTANT AS TO CAUSE OUTRAGE AMONG THE COMMUNITIES.

-- MORE  
2314MST 06 12 84

0093

B E678 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-COMMISSION 6 KUALA LUMPUR

ENCIK GHAFAR BABA (BN-JASIN) SAID NOT ALL RURAL FOLK WERE MALAYS AND THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THEM WERE CHINESE AND INDIANS WHO ALSO GOT THE ATTENTION OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES.

THE CALL BY THE DAP TO ALL BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT OF CHINESE AND INDIAN DESCENT TO UNITE IN OPPOSING THE DELINEATION WAS AN INSTIGATION TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN THE MALAYS AND THE NON-MALAY? IN THE COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

THE ALLEGATION OF THE DAP THAT MANY SEATS WERE ALLOCATED TO THE RURAL AREAS WAS A FEAR THAT SHOULD NOT ARISE.

ENCIK GHAFAR SUGGESTED THAT THE ELECTION COMMISSION AMEND THE PRESENT NOMINATION FORMS AND SET THEM OUT IN LIST FORM WITH NUMBERS FOR EVERY QUESTION TO PREVENT CANDIDATES FROM MISSING OUT QUESTIONS WHICH COULD IN TURN DISQUALIFY THEM.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE BALLOT BOXES BE OPENED AND THE VOTES COUNTED AT THE PLACE OF VOTING TO ENSURE SECURITY AND TO AVOID MALPRACTICE IN COUNTING OF VOTES. -- BERNAMA

2329MST 06 12 84