

D855

R E305 AAE
MAHATHIR-KAFIR

'84 P
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 31 (BERNAMA) -- LEGISLATION ON THE **+MENGKAFIR+** ISSUE (CALLING OTHER MUSLIMS INFIDELS) WILL BE DRAFTED BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS ONCE THE CABINET GIVES THE GO-AHEAD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL STUDYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CONFERENCE OF RULERS AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON DEC 3 THAT A LAW BE PROMULGATED TO CHECK THE WIDESPREAD PRACTICE OF BRANDING OTHER MUSLIMS **+KAFIR.**

HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT THE NEW LAW ENTAILED BUT ADDED: **+IF** THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES THE LEGISLATION AND IF IT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE VARIOUS STATES, THE STATES WILL NORMALLY USE IT AS A GUIDELINE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY LEGISLATION ON THE **+MENGKAFIR+** ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DRAFTED BY THE LEGAL ADVISERS IN THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE AS IT WAS A COMPLEX MATTER.

+THIS MATTER HAS TO BE REFERRED TO AND ADVICE SOUGHT FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AS I AM NOT A LAWYER AND NOT IN A POSITION TO DRAFT THE LAW. HE ADDED.

THE LAWYER HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD BRING THE PROPOSALS ON THE LEGISLATION TO THE CABINET FOR DISCUSSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE SAID THE CABINET HAD YET TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AS HE HAD BEEN AWAY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT OVERSEAS WHILE MOST OF THE MINISTERS HAD GONE FOR THEIR ANNUAL HOLIDAY.

THE CONFERENCE OF RULERS HAD RULED THAT MUSLIMS CALLING OTHER MUSLIMS **+KAFIR+** HAD COMMITTED AN ACT THAT IS HARAM (PROHIBITED) IN ISLAM AND WERE REQUIRED TO REPENT.

THE RULERS ALSO DIRECTED THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST SUCH PRACTICES TO AVERT A SPLIT IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

FOLLOWING THAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT INTRODUCE A LAW TO CHECK SUCH PRACTICES. -- BERNAMA
1215MST 31 12 84