

B E466 AAE

MAHATHIR - LETTER R R R
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(P)

TANAH MERAH, MARCH 28 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY POISON PEN LETTERS ARE BEING CIRCULATED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE TO CREATE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE MALAYS AND THE CHINESE.

THERE WERE MALAYS WHO WROTE THE POISON PEN LETTERS, MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THEY WERE WRITTEN BY THE CHINESE AND DIRECTED AT THE CHINESE COMMUNITY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AFTER OPENING THE \$1.2 MILLION TANAH MERAH UMNO DIVISION BUILDING HERE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT THE CIRCULATION OF POISON PEN LETTERS PURPORTEDLY DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHINESE TO MALAYSIAN CHINESE STUDENTS OVERSEAS TO +OPEN THEIR EYES+ TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MALAYS.

HE SAID HE HAD ALSO RECEIVED A POISON PEN LETTER BUT COULD NOT SAY WHETHER IT WAS THE SAME AS THE ONE MENTIONED BY THE REPORTER WHO ASKED THE QUESTION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE LETTER WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY A MALAY AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE MALAYS TO INSTIGATE THEM AGAINST THE CHINESE.

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1917MST 28 03 85

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B E467 AAE

MAHATHIR - LETTER 2 TANAH MERAH R R R

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BAN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH LETTERS IF THEY HAD A SECURITY IMPLICATION BUT IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT TREAT THE LETTERS SERIOUSLY, THE GOVERNMENT NEED NOT TAKE ANY ACTION, HE SAID.

HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS BUT BY THOSE WHO WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

+THEY WANT THE CHINESE NOT TO SUPPORT THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE MALAYS TO HATE THE MCA+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF MOVES BY PAS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO GIVE ALL THEIR ALLOWANCES TO THE PARTY AND SUGGESTED THAT IT BE STARTED NOW.

+PAS NEEDS MONEY AND ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AS SINCERE PEOPLE, SHOULD GIVE ALL THEIR MONEY, PROPERTY AND HOUSES TO THE PARTY. THIS IS A BETTER PRACTICE THAN COLLECTING MONEY FROM THE POOR EACH TIME THE PARTY CAMPAIGNS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1919MST 28 03 85

B E471 AAE
MAHATHIR - LETTER 3 TANAH MERAH R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DURING THE PADANG TERAP PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION IN KEDAH, PAS HAD SAID THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA WERE POOR BUT PAS MEMBERS NEVERTHELESS WENT ROUND COLLECTING DONATIONS FROM THEM.

ASKED WHETHER UMNO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD GIVE ALL THEIR ALLOWANCES TO THE PARTY, HE SAID UMNO DID NOT COMPEL THEM TO DO SO BUT THERE WERE SOME WHO CONTRIBUTED PART OF THEIR ALLOWANCES TO THE PARTY VOLUNTARILY.

+UMNO IS SINCERE AND NOT HYPOCRITICAL LIKE PAS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT HE AND OTHER UMNO CABINET MINISTERS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH SALARY DEDUCTION BESIDES MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND UMNO.

ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN POLITICS, HE SAID THEY COULD DO SO IF THEY HAD THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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1927MST 28 03 85

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B E473 AAE
MAHATHIR - LETTER 4 TANAH MERAH R R R

EARLIER, IN HIS SPEECH, HE SAID THAT UMNO COULD NOT BE ARROGANT WITH ITS POWERS AND OPPRESS THE OTHER RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

AS AN ISLAMIC PARTY, UMNO SHOULD BE FAIR AND PRACTISE MODERATION AS TAUGHT BY THE RELIGION.

+IF WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE MUSLIMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES BEING OPPRESSED AND DENIED OF THEIR RIGHTS, WE ALSO CANNOT BE ARROGANT WITH OUR POWERS AND OPPRESS OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

PRESENT WERE KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH. -- BERNAMA.
1933MST 28 03 85