

JOHOR BAHRU, MAY 13 (BERNAMA) -- PENSIONER MOHAMED GULAIMAN, 60, AGAIN LOST THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO A PRIME MINISTER OVER THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC)'S WORLD PHONE-IN SERVICE.

THE GUEST ON THE PROGRAMME LAST NIGHT WAS NONE OTHER THAN MALAYSIA'S DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD. ENCIK MOHAMED, AN AVID FOLLOWER OF THE PROGRAMME, HAD IN 1983 LOST HIS CHANCE TO TALK TO BRITISH PRIME MINISTER PUAN MARGARET THATCHER.

ENCIK MOHAMED SAID THAT AT 6.50 PM YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS 20 MINUTES BEFORE THE 45-MINUTE PROGRAMME CAME ON THE AIR, HOST SUE MACGREGOR CALLED HIM TO CHECK HIS LINE AND ASKED HIM TO REPEAT HIS QUESTION WHICH HAD BEEN SENT IN EARLIER

HE THEN SAT NEAR HIS TELEPHONE WAITING FOR IT TO RING BUT THE CALL NEVER CAME THROUGH DURING THE PROGRAMME WHICH LASTED FROM 7.10 PM TO 7.55 PM

HAD THE TELEPHONE SOUNDED, ENCIK MOHAMED WOULD HAVE ASKED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THIS QUESTION: +WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT, IN SENDING (TO PARLIAMENT) FOR APPROVAL CERTAIN LAWS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN WELL-RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE, WILL RENDER ITSELF LESS POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE.+

HIS FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT WAS WHEN HE WAS SIMILARLY LEFT OUT OF THE 60-MINUTE PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD HAVE ENABLED HIM TO TALK TO BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER ON OCT 31, 1983.-- MORE
1601MST 13 05 85

PENSIONER-MAHATHIR 2 JOHOR BAHRU

ENCIK MOHAMED, WHO HAD WAITED FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR FOR THE LONDON CALL WHICH NEVER CAME, HAD INTENDED TO ASK THE BRITISH PREMIER WHAT THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD DO IF A SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY WAS INVADED BY THE RUSSIANS OR THE VIETNAMESE.

ENCIK MOHAMED, A FOLLOWER OF BBC PROGRAMMES THE PAST 30 YEARS, SAID HE WOULD WRITE IN TO ASK FOR THE REASONS WHY HE HAD BEEN KISSED OUT FOR THE SECOND TIME.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME HE WAS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN BBC'S WORLD PHONE-IN SERVICE. EARLIER, HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION FAMOUS BBC PERSONALITY DAVID ATTENBOROUGH ON CONSERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS.

ENCIK MOHAMED, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PANEL +OVERSEAS AUDIENCE,+ SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE NEXT GUEST TO GO ON THE AIR UNDER THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENCIK PIK BOTHA ON MAY 19.

-- BERNAMA