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MAHATHIR-SECRETS
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WAS OPEN-MINDED BUT ADDED THAT IT COULD NOT DIVULGE GOVERNMENT SECRETS AT ITS WHIM AND FANCY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN DIVULGING CERTAIN MATTERS, HAD TO CONSIDER WHETHER SUCH REVELATIONS WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM AT HAND OR WHETHER IT WOULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN'S CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE +OPEN+ IN MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST TO AVOID CREATING DOUBTS AMONG THE PEOPLE AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

TUN HUSSEIN WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) LOANS SCANDAL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I DO NOT SEE WHAT IT IS THAT WE ARE NOT OPEN ABOUT.+

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE, HE SAID HE BELIEVED MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAD TO MAINTAIN SECRECY IN CERTAIN MATTERS AND THAT WAS WHY +WE HAVE THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.+ -- MORE

1820MST 06 07 85

MAHATHIR-SECRETS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EVEN THOUGH A CERTAIN PIECE OF INFORMATION MIGHT NOT BE LISTED AS AN OFFICIAL SECRET THERE WERE OTHER REASONS WHY IT COULD NOT BE DIVULGED, SUCH AS IT COULD JEOPARDIZE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SEE JUSTICE DONE IN THE MATTER CONCERNED.

HE WARNED OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD ARISE IF MATTERS WERE DIVULGED MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF REVEALING THEM AS WAS HAPPENING IN THE WEST.

FROM WHAT WAS APPARENT, HE SAID, THESE COUNTRIES HAD BECOME TRAPPED IN THEIR OWN REVELATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN SUCH MATTERS WOULD NOT LONGER POSE A PROBLEM IF THEY WERE DIVULGED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO SO.

ON A REPORT THAT CERTAIN +ELEMENTS+ IN SINGAPORE WERE SPREADING NEGATIVE RUMOURS ABOUT MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION, HE SAID ACTION COULD ONLY BE TAKEN IF THERE WAS CLEAR PROOF. -- MORE

1842MST 06 07 85

MAHATHIR-SECRETS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT +SOME PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO+ THAN TO SPREAD LIES ABOUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN HIM AND DATUK MUSA BEING STRAINED.

HE ALSO REFERRED TO RUMOURS THAT DATUK MUSA AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WERE WORKING TOGETHER TO TOPPLE HIM. -- BERNAMA

1842MST 06 07 85