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MELAKA, JULY 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SUGGESTED THAT BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES AMEND THEIR CONSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT PARTY DISPUTES FROM BEING TAKEN TO COURT ARBITRARILY.

HOWEVER, THE AMENDMENTS SHOULD NOT BE MADE SO RIGID AS TO PLACE ANY PARTY LEADER ABOVE CRITICISM, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 33RD MIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID UMNO WOULD TAKE STEPS TO AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES SHOULD EMULATE ITS MOVE.

SHOULD ANY COMPONENT PARTY DECIDE TO AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION, IT COULD BE POSSIBLE FOR PARTIES WITH THE SAME INTENTION TO STUDY THE BEST WAY TO INSTITUTE THE CHANGES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A PARTY MEMBER WHO RESORTS TO A CRIMINAL OFFENCE WOULD NOT ESCAPE THE NORMAL LAWS OF THE COUNTRY. - MORE

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HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR A PARTY CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE AVENUES FOR A MEMBER OR LEADER AT THE LOWER LEVEL TO PUT FORWARD HIS VIEWS OR PROBLEMS.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT ANY DISPUTE OR PROBLEM BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE PARTY IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND INTEREST OF THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HIS SUGGESTION FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION WAS MADE TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

+THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IF ONE WANTS TO LOOK AT THE SUGGESTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD BEFORE APRIL 1987.

REFERRING TO MONEY POLITICS, HE ADVISED THE COMPONENT PARTIES TO ENSURE THAT MONEY WAS NOT USED TO FISH FOR VOTES OR POSITIONS. -- MORE

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+MONEY, THOUGH IMPORTANT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A PARTY, WOULD ERODE THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE PARTY IF MISUSED TO ELECT LEADERS,+ HE SAID.

ON RUMOURS ABOUT THE SHARE MARKET AND THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, HE ADVISED THE PEOPLE TO BE RATIONAL AND LOOK INTO THEM THOROUGHLY BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISIONS.

MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK AND SEVERAL LEADERS OF OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY. -- BERNAMA

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