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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 27 (BERNAMA) -- THE ACTIVITIES OF A CERTAIN GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN IN USING THE MALAY RULERS IN FURTHERANCE OF THEIR OWN BUSINESS INTERESTS HAVE REACHED A SERIOUS STAGE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, HE SAID, HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BROACH THE MATTER TO AVERT ANY MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG THE PEOPLE.

STRESSING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING THE PEOPLE TO RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY SYSTEM, HE SAID THESE ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR +A LONG TIME+ AND INVOLVED LARGE BUSINESSES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS DURING A BREAK AT THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE THAT HE BELIEVED THE RULERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILIES UNDERSTOOD THE GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVE FOR EXPOSING SUCH ACTIVITIES AS THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY SYSTEM TO BE UNDERMINED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD A LIST OF THE BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED AND WARNED THAT IT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO +BLACKLIST+ THEM NOR ENTERTAIN ANY DEALINGS THEY MIGHT WANT WITH THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE

RULERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN A DILEMMA FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE ANY ACTION IT TOOK WOULD AFFECT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXPOSURE OF THE MATTER WAS NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND SAID THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IMPLICATING THE RULERS BUT MERELY QUESTIONING THE ACTIONS OF THOSE BUSINESSMEN.

+BECAUSE WE SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WE CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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