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MAHATHIR-AFRICA
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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT NOW MEETING IN THE BAHAMAS TO COME OUT WITH A DECISION TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME TO FORCE IT TO REMOVE ITS APARTHEID POLICY.

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THIS APPEAL IN A PERSONAL LETTER TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME FROM NASSAU WHERE HE HAD ADDRESSED THE MEETING.

HE TOLD REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN SUBANG THAT THE LETTER HAD OUTLINED MALAYSIA'S STAND, INCLUDING THE IMPERATIVE NEED TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS TO RESOLVE THE MINORITY RULE ISSUE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REFERRED TO HOW THE WHITE ADMINISTRATION IN RHODESIA (NOW ZIMBABWE) HAD TO COME DOWN ON ITS KNEES AFTER SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED, AND LATER AGREED TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE BLACKS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO HOLD DIALOGUE WITH THE BLACKS UNLESS SANCTIONS, WHICH HE HAD PRESSED FOR IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE MEETING LAST WEEK, WERE IMPOSED. -- MORE

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IN HIS ADDRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD LAMBASTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME FOR ITS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE MAJORITY BLACKS AND REQUESTED THE COMMONWEALTH TO AGREE ON IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST THE COUNTRY.

HIS HARD-HITTING SPEECH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF SEVERAL LEADERS.

FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN IS NOW HEADING THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION AT THE MEETING SCHEDULED TO END TOMORROW. -- BERNAMA

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