

D232

U E129 AAE
MAHATHIR-BALING

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 30⁸⁵ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BALING INCIDENT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMISM OF CERTAIN PEOPLE .

HE ALSO SAID THE INCIDENT WAS POLITICALLY-RELATED.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER OPENING THE 7TH ASEAN-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE HERE THAT PAS COULD NOT COMPLETELY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE FACT THAT IBRAHIM MAHMOOD WAS ONCE THE PARTY'S ELECTION CANDIDATE.

FOUR POLICEMEN AND 14 CRIMINALS WERE KILLED IN A FIVE-HOUR POLICE OPERATION AGAINST 37 WANTED MEN AND THEIR FOLLOWERS AT KAMPUNG MEMALI, CERUK PUTIH IN BALING LAST WEEK, JUST A DAY BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER LEFT FOR AN OFFICIAL NINE-DAY VISIT TO CHINA.

THE MAIN THING IS BECAUSE OF EXTREMISM OF THESE PEOPLE...AND IT IS RELATED TO POLITICS...ALTHOUGH PAS DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS KIND OF ACTION, THE FACT IS HE (IBRAHIM MAHMOOD) GOT CARRIED AWAY.+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1238MST 30 11 85

D241

U E133 AAE

MAHATHIR-BALING 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON PAS'S CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL MATTERS LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

+WHAT WE DO NOT WANT TO DO IS TO MAKE A PUBLIC SHOW OF THIS INQUIRY SO THAT POLITICAL PARTIES COULD HAVE A FIELD DAY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID WHAT PAS WANTED WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE FOR IT TO SENSATIONALISE AND NOT AN INQUIRY, ADDING THAT PAS WAS ALSO NOT INTERESTED IN WHETHER THE COUNTRY WAS PEACEFUL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE WHOLE INCIDENT ALSO SOUNDED AS IF PAS SUPPORTED SUCH AN ACTIVITY BECAUSE THE PARTY HAD NOT REALLY CONDEMNED IT OUTRIGHT EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO SAID THAT IT WAS NOT RELATED TO PAS.

PAS' DEPUTY PRESIDENT HAJI FADZIL NOOR HAD SAID THAT THE PARTY HAD NO CONNECTION AT ALL WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLE SOUGHT BY THE POLICE AND THAT THE PARTY MEMBERS INVOLVED HAD ACTED ON THEIR OWN AND NOT ON ANY DIRECTIVES. -- MORE

1258MST 30 11 85

D249

U E135 AAE

MAHATHIR-BALING 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DESCRIBED THE CLAIM THAT THOSE PEOPLE DIED IN A HOLY WAR AS +SHEER RUBBISH+.

+WHAT HOLY WAR...WHAT IS SO HOLY ABOUT KILLING POLICEMEN WHO ARE OUT DOING THEIR DUTY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO RULED OUT RURAL POVERTY AS ONE OF THE FACTORS FOR THE INCIDENT SAYING THAT RURAL POVERTY HAD BEEN IN BALING SINCE THE DAYS OF THE BRITISH.

+IT'S AN OLD STORY...WHY WERE THERE NOT SUCH INCIDENTS THEN...BECAUSE THEY WERE SCARED OF THE BRITISH?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE

1316MST 30 11 85

D254

U E137 AAE

MAHATHIR-BALING 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER RURAL POVERTY AREAS BUT THE PEOPLE THERE WERE SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADDED THAT IF IT WAS CAUSED BY RURAL POVERTY AND SUPPOSING THAT SOMETHING LIKE 20 TO 30 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION LIVED IN POVERTY AREAS, THEN THERE SHOULD BE AN UPRISING BY THAT NUMBER OF THE POPULATION.

+BUT THERE IS NOT,+ HE SAID.

+...THEY DO NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS RURAL POVERTY...WE ARE WILLING TO SHOW TO THEM PLACES OUTSIDE MALAYSIA WHERE THERE IS REAL POVERTY.+ -- BERNAMA

1322MST 30 11 85