

B E008 AAE
MAHATHIR-HANGING

KOTA KINABALU, JULY 8, (BERNAMA) -- THE HANGING OF AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS BRIAN CHAMBERS AND KEVIN BARLOW AT PUDU PRISON YESTERDAY WAS CARRIED OUT AFTER THE WHOLE LEGAL PROCESS HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+THE LEGAL PROCESS WAS MORE THAN COMPLETED. IN FACT WHAT HAD BEEN DONE HAD GONE FAR BEYOND THE (CONFINES OF THE) LEGAL PROCESS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SABAH THIS AFTERNOON.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL PROCESS, THE CLEMENCY PLEA MUST BE CONSIDERED BY THE PARDONS BOARD. THIS THE PARDONS BOARD HAD DONE. HE SAID IT WAS THE SAME BOARD THAT HAD BEEN CONSIDERING DEATH SENTENCES ALL THIS WHILE AND NOBODY HAD COMPLAINED SO FAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON CLAIMS BY COUNSEL FOR THE TWO AUSTRALIANS THAT THE HANGING HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT WHEN ALL THE LEGAL PROCESSES HAD STILL NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED.

HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE BECAUSE THEY (CHAMBERS AND BARLOW) HAPPENED TO BE AUSTRALIANS AND PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THEIR COLOUR TOO, THAT THE AUSTRALIANS HAD SUDDENLY BECOME VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE DEATH SENTENCE. -- MORE
1805MST 08 07 86

B E010 AAE
MAHATHIR-HANGING 2 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIANS, THEY WERE AGAINST THE DEATH SENTENCE AND AS SUCH THEY MUST PROTEST WHENEVER THE DEATH SENTENCE WAS EXECUTED.

HE RECALLED AN INCIDENT THAT TOOK PLACE DURING A COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE WHEN THE PRETORIA REGIME HAD WANTED TO HANG A MAN AND ALTHOUGH +WE ALL LENT SUPPORT TO THE BLACK AFRICANS IN OPPOSING THE HANGING, IT WAS CARRIED OUT ALL THE SAME.+

+WHEN WE LOOK INTO THE PAST, THERE ARE PRECEDENTS OF APPEALS BEING MADE TO PRIME MINISTERS NOT TO HANG CERTAIN PEOPLE BUT THE HANGINGS WENT AHEAD,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON A STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER BOB HAWKE THAT THE HANGING OF THE TWO DRUG TRAFFICKERS WAS A +BARBARIC ACT+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ENCIK HAWKE'S OPINION.

HE SAID THE HANGING CARRIED OUT IN MALAYSIA TODAY WAS NOT LIKE IN THE OLDEN DAYS WHEN EXECUTIONS WERE DONE BY STABBING WITH A DAGGER. -- MORE
1814MST 08 07 86

B E016 AAE
MAHATHIR-HANGING 3 KOTA KINABALU

THE JUDICIAL HANGING WAS LEARNT FROM THE WEST AND UNLIKE HANGING BY CHOKING, DEATH WAS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS, HE SAID.

+WE HAVE NEVER HAD LYNCHINGS AND THINGS LIKE THAT WHICH CONSTITUTE A BARBARIC ACT,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENTION THAT NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE A PERSON'S LIFE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +YOU SHOULD ASK THESE DRUG PEDDLERS FIRST. BY DISTRIBUTING DRUGS THEY ARE TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.+

ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED JUST AS MUCH TO DEPORT THEM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT SOME OF THESE IMMIGRANTS WERE USEFUL TO THE COUNTRY AS THEY CONTRIBUTED, CONSIDERABLY TO THE WORKFORCE IN CERTAIN FIELDS.

+OUR OWN PEOPLE MUST BE ABLE TO ACCEPT JOBS AND THE PAY WHICH IS BEING GIVEN TO FOREIGNERS IF WE WANT THEM TO BE SENT BACK,+ HE SAID.

PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN AND STATE MEMBERS. -- BERNAMA
1837MST 08 07 86