

D370

U E376 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR KOK LANAS DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD WAS EXPRESSING HIS OWN VIEWS WHEN HE SPOKE ON MALAYSIAN POLITICS LAST SUNDAY IN SINGAPORE.

THE SPEECH ON +ISSUES IN MALAYSIAN POLITICS+ AT THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WAS MET WITH MUCH PROTEST FROM NON-MALAY POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER, COMMENTING ON THIS, SAID: +IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WAS HIS OPINIONS AND, IN THE SECOND PLACE, IT WAS SAID IN SINGAPORE. SIMILAR OPINIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE CHINESE AND INDIANS REGARDING THEIR OWN STATUS.+

+SO I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING MUCH IN WHAT HE SAID,+ HE ADDED.

ON REACTIONS FROM POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN A FREE SOCIETY THE PEOPLE COULD VOICE OUT THEIR OPINIONS. -- MORE

1453MST 08 09 86

U E377 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ABDULLAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON A PRESS REPORT THAT THE MCA YOUTH HAD LODGED A POLICE REPORT SAYING THAT THE SPEECH IS SEDITIOUS, HE SAID: +I DON'T KNOW. DATUK LEE KIM SAI (MCA DEPUTY PRESIDENT) HAS SAID WE SHOULD NOT BE TOO SENSITIVE ABOUT THESE THINGS. I DON'T KNOW WHO IS SENSITIVE.+

IN LIGHTER VEIN, HE SAID: +I'M A BIT CONFUSED SINCE I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM HARARE, WHICH IS 4,900 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND THE AIR THERE IS RARIFIED, BUT HERE I'M COMING DOWN TO EARTH AGAIN.+ --

BERNAMA  
1506MST 08 09 86

U E394 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ABDULLAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM)

MEANWHILE, UMNO YOUTH LEADER ANWAR IBRAHIM SAID DATUK ABDULLAH, IN HIS SPEECH, WAS ONLY "RESPONDING" TO THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE OPPOSITION LEADERS AND SEVERAL BN COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS, ESPECIALLY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE STATEMENTS OF THESE LEADERS HAD QUESTIONED SEVERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE AND DATUK ABDULLAH WAS ONLY REPLYING TO THEM.

AS SUCH, HE DID NOT SEE WHY THE MATTER SHOULD BE HARPED UPON. HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING OF THE 25TH SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS NATIONAL CONFERENCE HERE.

ENCIK ANWAR SAID: "IF THE EARLIER STATEMENTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED SENSITIVE OR SEDITIOUS, WHY SHOULD THE REPLY TO THEM BE CONSIDERED SO?"

ON THE LOGGING OF THE POLICE REPORT BY THE MCA YOUTH, HE SAID ANYONE COULD MAKE A POLICE REPORT. MORE

0309MST 08 09 86

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MAHATHIR-ABDULLAH 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, I AM DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY SHOULD HAVE HELD A DEBATE AND DISCUSSED THE MATTER BEFORE TAKING SUCH ACTION," HE ADDED.

ON THE UMNO YOUTH'S STAND ON ROCK CONCERTS, ENCIK ANWAR SAID THAT GENERALLY THE MOVEMENT DID NOT HAVE SUCH A NEGATIVE VIEW OF ROCK CONCERTS.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE RECENT UNPLEASANT INCIDENT AT THE ROCK CONCERT IN PULAU PINANG, THE MATTER SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO TO AVOID A RECURRENCE.

IN THIS RESPECT HE FELT THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON PUBLIC ROCK CONCERTS TO BE APPROPRIATE. -- BERNAMA

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