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INTERVIEW-CORRUPTION 5 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THERE WAS EVEN A STATE GOVERNMENT CHEATED BY PEOPLE USING PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THEM TOGETHER WITH HIM AT HIS HARI RAYA OPEN HOUSE TO SHOW HOW CLOSE THEY WERE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, HE SAID.

THEY DID THIS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CLAIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DIRECTED THEM TO GET THINGS DONE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS OR TO OBTAIN COMMISSIONS PURPORTEDLY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FROM CERTAIN PEOPLE.

BESIDES USING HIS SIGNATURE, THERE WERE ALSO PEOPLE WHO WENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY (KUBANG PASU) TO LOOK FOR PEOPLE IN THE KAMPUNG WHO KNEW OR +WERE CLOSE TO ME+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD USED A HAJI +CLOSE+ TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO GET A FOUR DIGIT LOTTERY PERMIT THROUGH A LETTER WRITTEN IN ENGLISH WHOSE CONTENTS WERE NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE HAJI HIMSELF.

WHEN HE (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR) SAID +IT CANNOT BE ALLOWED+, THE HAJI HAD QUESTIONED HIM WHY IT COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO HIM WHEN IT COULD BE GIVEN TO OTHERS.

TO THE PEOPLE IN THE KAMPUNGS, OFFERS OF MILLIONS OF RINGGIT TO GET THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE VERY ATTRACTIVE AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE COULD GIVE WEALTH, HE SAID.

THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED FELT THAT WAY BECAUSE HE HARBOURED THE BELIEF THAT OTHERS HAD RECEIVED OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF DIRECTIVES BY THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN THOSE WHO REALLY GOT THEM OR DID NOT GET THEM HAD MADE USE OF HIS NAME, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED. --

BERNAMA

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