

U E893 DEE
MAHATHIR-POLICIES

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 23 (BERNAMA) -- BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE GIVEN GREATER INSIGHT INTO GOVERNMENT POLICIES FROM TIME TO TIME THROUGH SEMINARS SO THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN DEBATES IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT AT TIMES THERE WAS MISINTERPRETATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE INTERPRETATION OF SUCH POLICIES WERE LEFT TO THE MPS THEMSELVES.

IF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, THEN IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATES EFFECTIVELY, HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

EARLIER, HE OPENED A TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AT THE SEMINAR, CABINET MINISTERS WOULD BRIEF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ON MATTERS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

HE SAID THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT AND THAT SIMILAR SEMINARS WOULD BE HELD IF THE MPS' UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES WAS STILL LACKING.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE STATE GOVERNMENTS WHETHER THEY WANTED TO HOLD SUCH SEMINARS AT STATE LEVEL BUT ADDED THAT SEVERAL STATES HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN DOING SO.

PERAK IS HOLDING A SEMINAR FOR STATE ASSEMBLYMEN TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TOPICS EMPHASISED AT THE SEMINAR INCLUDED THE +LOOK EAST+, HEAVY INDUSTRIES, INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES, THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES. -- MORE

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REFERRING TO THE STATEMENT BY MCA SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK LEE KIM SAI THAT THERE WERE +CERTAIN DEVIATIONS+ IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WOULD BETTER FOR SUCH MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE BN.

+SUCH VIEWS SHOULD BE BACKED BY PROOF AND THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RECTIFY THE MATTER IF THERE IS PROOF,+ HE SAID.

ON THE COMMITTEE SET UP BY UMNO TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP, HE SAID OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES COULD ALSO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY AND IT DEPENDED ON THEM WHETHER THEY WISHED TO SET UP A SIMILAR COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THAT THE BN, TOO, HAD A COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP, AND THIS WAS THE CABINET.

ON AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CABINET HAD NOT APPROVED THE BILL TO BE TABLED BECAUSE SEVERAL PARTS NEEDED TO BE STUDIED FURTHER. -- MORE
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ASKED WHETHER THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT WOULD BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT NEXT MONTH, HE SAID HE HOPED IT COULD BE DONE.

ON ORGANISATIONS WHICH ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ZIONISTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEIR ACTIVITIES COULD NOT BE EXPOSED NOW BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRED MORE PROOF.

ON FURTHER APPOINTMENTS IN THE CABINET, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE THEM WHEN IT FELT THEY WERE NECESSARY. -- BERNAMA
1612MST 23 09 86