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U E454 AAE
MAHATHIR-BMF
BM

IPOH, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND OTHER INNOCENT PARTIES IN THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) LOANS SCANDAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +THEY TRY TO LINK THE BMF CRIME TO SEVERAL LEADERS DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PROOF.+

ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF 40,000 AT THE MUNICIPAL FIELD HERE, HE SAID LETTERS MENTIONING THE NAMES OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS WERE PURPOSELY SLIPPED INTO THE REPORT (OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY).

+THIS WAS DONE SO THAT THE PEOPLE, WHO WILL PROBABLY NOT READ THE REPORT CONSISTING OF 16 VOLUMES, WILL THINK THAT THESE PEOPLE HAD BEEN INVOLVED ALL ALONG,+ HE ADDED.

+WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS THAT THE WRITERS OF THE LETTERS NAMED NAMES (INDISCRIMINATELY).+ -- MORE

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+AM I TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND GUILTY IF SOMEONE SHOUTS +MAHATHIR+?+, HE ASKED, TO WHICH THE GATHERING REPLIED, +NO+. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AFRAID TO RELEASE THE FULL REPORT OF THE BMF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY BECAUSE +WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING WRONG AND AS FOR THE GUILTY, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM+.

HE SAID THAT FROM THE TALK GOING AROUND NOW, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WERE QUARTERS TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE REPORT WERE GUILTY.

+SUCH ATTEMPTS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BUT THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MENTIONING NAMES WITHOUT PROVIDING ADEQUATE EXPLANATION WHY THE NAMES WERE MENTIONED,+ HE ADDED.

THIS WAS DONE SO THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD MAKE USE OF THE REPORT FOR POLITICAL GAIN WITHOUT CARING FOR THE CONSEQUENCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THOSE INVOLVED HAD TO BEAR, HE ADDED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BMF 3 IPOH

+THEY DO NOT CARE WHETHER BMF LOST \$2 BILLION OR \$10 BILLION BECAUSE THEY ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN REVILING THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS TWO-HOUR SPEECH THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON SOLIDARITY, THE ECONOMIC RECESSION AND THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS FIELDS WHICH HE SAID HAD CREATED UNEASINESS AMONG CERTAIN PEOPLE BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD GOOD INTENTION IN WHATEVER IT DID AND THAT THERE WAS NO MALICE WHATSOEVER ON ITS PART.

ON THE ACTIVITIES OF GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNTRY TRYING TO THWART THE VARIOUS EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THEY COMPRISED NOT ONLY POLITICIANS BUT ALSO THOSE HIDING BEHIND THEIR ORGANISATIONS.

ESS IN VARIOUS FIELDS INCLUDING UNITY AMONG ITS PEOPLE COULD NOT BE MATCHED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-BMF 4 IPOH

ON THE ECONOMIC RECESSION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SIT BACK AND WATCH THE PEOPLE SUFFER.

IT WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING INTO WAYS TO CUSHION THE EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION BY PROVIDING OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE IN FIELDS LIKE COMMERCE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE LOWERING OF PRICES OF GOODS WAS ONE WAY OF HELPING THE PEOPLE, ADDING THAT IF THE PRICE OF OIL IN THE WORLD MARKET DROPPED FURTHER THE PRICES OF OTHER GOODS WOULD BE LOWERED.

AS FOR THE TEXTILE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH HAD SUFFERED GREAT LOSSES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REDUCE THE ELECTRICITY RATES SO THAT THE FACTORIES COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE.

ON THE PENANG BRIDGE PROJECT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROJECT WAS PLANNED LONG AGO BEFORE THE ECONOMIC RECESSION AND WAS A PROMISE MADE BY THE GERAKAN TO THE PEOPLE WHICH ENABLED IT TO WIN IN PULAU PINANG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TO ENSURE A GOOD LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE BOTH IN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND TO MAKE MALAYSIA A NATION TO BE RESPECTED IN THE WORLD.

-- BERNAMA
1959MST 13 03 86