

U E430 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-OSA

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 9<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS DISTRIBUTED A CIRCULAR TO ITS STAFF FOR THEM TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE AIMS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT (OSA) APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT LAST YEAR. (P)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CIRCULAR WAS TO EXPLAIN THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE AMENDMENTS AND THE WAY THEY WERE IMPLEMENTED.

REPLYING TO HAJI ABDUL RAZAK ABDUL SAMAH (BN-LEMBAH PANTAI) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY, HE SAID THAT SINCE THE AMENDMENTS WERE APPROVED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORTS OF LEAKAGE OF OFFICIAL SECRETS.

THE AMENDMENTS CAME INTO EFFECT ON JAN 1 THIS YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS THE AMENDMENTS WERE EFFECTED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, IT WAS TOO EARLY TO GAUGE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. -- MORE

1632MST 09 03 87

U E434 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-OSA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SPECIFIC STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS IS DONE SMOOTHLY AND IN AN ORGANISED MANNER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT BRIEFINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS WERE HELD FROM TIME TO TIME SO THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN HANDLING CONFIDENTIAL AND SECRET FILES WERE AWARE OF THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT ANY LEAKAGE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DATUK HAJI MOHAMED ABU BAKAR RAUTHIN IBRAHIM (BN-KUALA KEDAH), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DEMOCRACY IN MALAYSIA WAS STILL ALIVE ALTHOUGH SOME QUARTERS CLAIMED IT HAD DIED SINCE THE OSA AMENDMENTS CAME INTO EFFECT.

+DEMOCRACY WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
1641MST 09 03 87

U E436 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-OSA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO ANSWER A QUESTION PERTAINING TO THE OSA FROM ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-TANJUNG), WHICH HE SAID HAD MALICE INTENT.

ENCIK LIM IN HIS QUESTION ALLEGED THAT SINCE THE OSA WAS AMENDED, GOVERNMENT STAFF HAD ABUSED THE ACT BY REFUSING TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION SOUGHT WAS NOT SECRET OR CONFIDENTIAL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ONLY THE DAP WAS NOT AWARE OF THE EXPLANATIONS ON THE AMENDMENTS WHICH WERE OFTEN MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT. -- BERNAMA

1644MST 09 03 87