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MAHATHIR-LIBERALISM  
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED THOSE WITH INTENTION TO CREATE TROUBLE NOT TO REGARD THE GOVERNMENT AS WEAK MERELY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT TO USE ITS POWERS INDISCRIMINATELY.

THEY SHOULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OPEN AND PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE, HE SAID.

+IF SUCH FREEDOM IS OFTEN ABUSED, THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO CEASE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID.

ADDRESSING THE 38TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, HE SAID THE LIBERALISM OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT THE PEOPLE HAD MATURED AND KNEW +THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GLASS AND GEMS.+ -- MORE  
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THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, REGRETTED THAT MANY HAD ABUSED THE GOVERNMENT'S PRAGMATISM AND OPENNESS.

THE EXISTENCE OF READING MATERIALS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT CONTAINED SLANDER AND WILD ACCUSATIONS, HAD COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE IN NOT PROHIBITING THE PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND BOOKS IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 1981-1982, HE SAID.

THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION HAD ALSO RELEASED FROM DETENTION THOSE WHO DID NOT REALLY THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE NATION, HE ADDED.

OF THE NEARLY 600 PEOPLE IN DETENTION PREVIOUSLY, ONLY 30 +HARD CORE+ TERRORISTS WERE STILL DETAINED, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
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