

D804

B E106 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY URGED THE PEOPLE TO DEFEND THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION AND SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR OWN WELLBEING AND TO AVOID TENSION AND UPHEAVAL IN MALAYSIA. HE FEARED CHAOS WOULD EMERGE IF THE GOVERNMENT BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS CALLING FOR A REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION ON GROUNDS THAT IT HAD +BECOME OBSOLETE AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE REVISED.+

IF THE GOVERNMENT GAVE IN TO THE DEMAND OF THIS GROUP COMPRISING A SMALL NUMBER OF THE ELITE, IT WOULD MEAN THE GOVERNMENT WAS IGNORING THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY PARTICULARLY THE RURAL POPULATION, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OPENING A COMMUNITY HALL AT KAMPUNG POK, GELANG PATAH NEAR HERE.

IN HIS 30-MINUTE SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SEVERAL TIMES REFERRED TO THE DANGER THAT WOULD BE FACED BY THE PEOPLE IF THE GOVERNMENT GAVE IN TO THIS GROUP. HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE VIGILANT AND NOT FALL FOR THE GROUP'S TACTICS. -- MORE
1624MST 27 08 87

D828

B E124 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION 2 JOHOR BAHRU

+AS MEMBERS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND GOVERNMENT, WE OUGHT TO DEFEND THE SUPREMACY OF THE MAJORITY VOICE,+ HE SAID, DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE TACTICS AND CAMPAIGNS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE GROUP TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

+WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY THEIR EFFORTS (TO GET THE CONSTITUTION REVISED). THEY THINK SUCH A MOVE WILL END ALL PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID WITHOUT NAMING THE GROUP HE MEANT.

+IF WE REDRAW THE (FEDERAL) CONSTITUTION, WE WILL FACE VARIOUS PROBLEMS. VARIOUS QUARTERS INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES, SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND SO FORTH WILL FLOOD US WITH THEIR VIEWS.

+THE PEOPLE (IN THE GOVERNMENT) ATTEMPTING THE RE-FORMULATION MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY EVERYONE.+

THIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, WOULD LEAD TO TENSION AMONG FACTIONS AND EMERGENCE OF CHAOS. -- MORE
1719MST 27 08 87

D831

B E125 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION 3 JOHOR BAHRU

THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION COULD BE AMENDED IF NECESSARY BUT THE GROUP DEMANDING ITS REVIEW WOULD SURELY FEEL SLIGHTED IF THE GOVERNMENT DID THIS WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ITS PROPOSALS AND WANTS.

+THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT. THEY WANT THE REVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED BY A BODY SUCH AS INDEPENDENT COMMISSION THAT DOES NOT REPRESENT ANYBODY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GROUP HOPED SUCH A COMMISSION WOULD COMPRISE MEMBERS WHO SHARED ITS VIEWS APART FROM FOREIGN JUDGES WHO MIGHT BE INVITED TO SIT IN THE COMMISSION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DOES NOT THINK FOREIGN JUDGES WOULD BE THE BEST OR SUITABLE CHOICE TO DELIBERATE ON THE NATION'S CONSTITUTION BECAUSE +THEY DO NOT KNOW THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY -- THE PEOPLE, THE RELIGION AND SO FORTH.+

AS JUDGES, THEY WERE LIKELY TO ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF JUSTICE BUT JUSTICE FOR ONE GROUP, HE STRESSED, MIGHT NOT BE JUSTICE FOR ANOTHER. -- MORE
1729MST 27 08 87

D849

B E141 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION 4 JOHOR BAHARU

THE PRIME MINISTER QUESTIONED THE RIGHT OF A MINORITY GROUP +OF 200 OR 300 PEOPLE+ TO CONTINUE TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THEM MIGHT HAVE HAD LEGAL TRAINING.

+IF THEY HAVE THE RIGHT (TO PROPOSE REVISING THE CONSTITUTION), OTHERS ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS DIFFERENT VIEWS. PERHAPS PAS WILL SAY, THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CONSTITUTION, USE THE QURAN AS A GUIDE.

+ANOTHER GROUP MAY PROPOSE THAT THE HUKUM SYARAK (ISLAMIC LAWS) BE IMPOSED ON OTHER COMMUNITIES AS WELL WHILE THERE ARE THOSE CLAIMING THE DIVISION OF ELECTORAL SEATS IS UNFAIR BECAUSE OF THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE RURAL AREAS.+

THIS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO TENSION WHEN EACH GROUP DEMANDED THAT ITS VIEWS AND PROPOSALS BE ACCEPTED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GROUP (ELITES) DID NOT WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO BE STRONG AND WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE PEOPLE'S OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION (AUGUST 1986) . -- MORE
1801MST 27 08 87

D855

B E142 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION 5 JOHOR BAHARU

IT FAILED TO PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM GETTING A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION AND WAS NOW CAMPAIGNING +TO CHANGE THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION+ THROUGH VARIOUS TACTICS.

HE DESCRIBED THE ACTIONS OF THE +SMALL+ GROUP AS DISREGARDING THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE TO ATTAIN ITS OWN ASPIRATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW GIVING PRIORITY TO THE RURAL RESIDENTS INCLUDING ALLOCATING TWO-THIRDS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE TO THE RURAL SECTOR.

THE MOVE WAS TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITIES AND OTHER SECTORS TO ENSURE HARMONY AND WELLBEING IN GENERAL AND TO AVOID ANY TROUBLE THAT COULD RESULT FROM IMBALANCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION HAD SOME +DEFECTS+ SUCH AS UNDER THE PROVISION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT COMPRISING THE THREE BRANCHES -- EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND THE JUDICIARY -- WHICH DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO CRITICISE ONE ANOTHER FOR ANY DEFICIENCY. -- MORE
1812MST 27 08 87

0879

B E160 AAE
MAHATHIR-CONSTITUTION & JOHOR BAHRU

THIS WOULD HAVE ENSURED CHECK AND BALANCE IN THE SYSTEM BUT IF ONE OF THE BRANCHES COULD NOT BE CRITICISED, IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS TO HAVE THE SYSTEM.

HE FELT A STUDY SHOULD BE MADE IF SUCH A SITUATION OCCURRED SO THAT NO BRANCH WAS EXEMPTED FROM CRITICISM OR CHECK. +BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO UNDERTAKE THIS STUDY AT PRESENT, OUR VOICE IS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, ONLY THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT (TO PROPOSE THE REVISION),+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM CURRENTLY ADOPTED WAS THE BEST BECAUSE IT ENSURED ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES HONOURED THEIR PLEDGES TO THE PEOPLE (OR RISK NOT BEING RE-ELECTED), WHEREAS A GOVERNMENT FORMED BY A COMMISSION (WHICH THINKS ITSELF CLEVER) WOULD NOT CARE FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE.

+WE HAVE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE GRATEFUL TO US FOR ELECTING THEM. BUT IF THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION, THEY WILL BE MORE AFRAID OF THE COMMISSION THAT SELECTED THEM AND NOT CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS,+ HE SAID, AND REITERATED HIS CALL TO THE PEOPLE TO DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

+UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, THE PEOPLE ELECT THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR CHOICE DURING ELECTIONS. BUT UNDER A COMMISSION, THE REPRESENTATIVES ARE LIKELY TO WORK UNTIL THEY RETIRE, WITHOUT CARING FOR THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, JOHOR MENTERI BESAR HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN AND INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT. -- BERNAMA
1911MST 27 08 87