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MAHATHIR-JUDICIARY R'R'R'
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KUANTAN, SEPT 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CRITICISED A GROUP IN THE JUDICIARY FOR INTERFERING IN POLITICAL MATTERS TO AN EXTENT WHERE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IS BEING IMPAIRED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GROUP WAS NOW FOUND TO HAVE +OPENLY+ EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS ON POLITICAL ISSUES ALTHOUGH THESE ISSUES WERE OUTSIDE THEIR JURISDICTION.

HE SAID THAT THEIR ACTIONS HAD LED TO MINISTERS THEMSELVES BEING UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES AND CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES EFFECTIVELY.

+THIS IS BECAUSE EVERY DECISION OF THE MINISTERS AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT PROGRESS TO THE PEOPLE IS OFTEN BEING QUESTIONED,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO PAHANG, AT THE MENTERI BESAR'S RESIDENCE HERE. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY IF THEY WERE TRIED BY A JUDGE WHO HAD OPENLY EXPRESSED HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS.

+THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER THEY SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT BUT THEIR ACTIONS COULD MAKE THE PEOPLE DOUBT THE NATION'S JUDICIARY,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE NATION MIGHT BE ENGULFED IN CHAOS IF SUCH A TREND CONTINUED AND URGED ALL QUARTERS TO BE WARY OF THE SITUATION.

HE SAID THE DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE AND THE JUDICIARY SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES AND THIS HAD BEEN CLEARLY STATED IN THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN SAID THAT THE CALL BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE FOR A REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS +VERY DANGEROUS AND CAN CREATE TENSION AMONG THE PEOPLE.+

HE SAID THAT VARIOUS CLAIMS WOULD BE MADE IF THE CONSTITUTION WAS OPEN TO A REVIEW AND THERE MIGHT EVEN BE QUARTERS WHO WOULD WANT TO ABOLISH THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OF THE MALAYS OR CEASE THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE OTHER RACES.

HE SAID THAT A REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION COULD NOT BE MADE A POLITICAL ISSUE AS IT MIGHT LEAD TO RACIAL RIOTS.

IF AT ALL THE CONSTITUTION NEEDED TO BE AMENDED, IT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNEL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

AFTER THE DINNER, THE PRIME MINISTER HELD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH PAHANG UMNO LEADERS. -- BERNAMA
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