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MAHATHIR-JUDICIARY  
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KUANTAN, SEPT 7 (BERNAMA) -- A GROUP WITHIN THE JUDICIARY HAS BEGUN TO BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS AND TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SITUATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY SHOULD ADOPT A NEUTRAL STAND AND NOT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS.

MOVES TO SEEK A REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION BY CERTAIN GROUPS OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF JUDGES WITH THE ACTIONS OF THESE GROUPS HAD RAISED QUESTIONS WHETHER THESE JUDGES WERE ON THE SIDE OF THE OPPOSITION, HE SAID.

+I AM NOT SAYING THAT THEY ARE SIDING OPPOSITION PARTIES BUT THEIR ACTIONS HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS AND THIS IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THE ADMINISTERING OF JUSTICE IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THIS THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PAHANG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION ACCORDED THE JUDICIARY ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION, ADDING THAT THE JUDICIARY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE POLITICAL FIELD. -- MORE

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ON A PROPOSAL BY HIGH COURT JUDGE JUSTICE DATUK HARUN HASHIM REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF SENATORS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE AS IT IMPINGED ON POLITICS.

JUSTICE DATUK HARUN HAD DURING THE OPENING OF A LAW SEMINAR IN BANGI ON SATURDAY PROPOSED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT MENTERIS BESAR AND SPEAKERS OF STATE ASSEMBLIES BE APPOINTED TO THE SENATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE JUDGE SHOULD HAVE REFRAINED FROM MAKING SUCH COMMENTS OPENLY.

+WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A CASE INVOLVING THAT VIEW COMES UP IN THE JUDGE'S OWN COURT AND THE PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW THE JUDGE'S STAND?

+IF HE HAS HIS OWN STAND, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS.

+THE SAME APPLIES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS. THEY CAN HAVE THEIR OWN POLITICAL VIEWS BUT THEY CANNOT COME UP WITH A WORKING PAPER SUGGESTING WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN POLITICS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADVISE JUDGES AS THIS LAY WITH THOSE AT THE HELM OF THE JUDICIARY.

-- BERNAMA

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