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MAHATHIR-MCA
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SUBANG, OCT 21 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MCA AND UMNO WERE NORMAL AND NOT AS BAD AS WAS MADE OUT TO BE BY THE PRESS.

THE PRESS ARE THE ONES GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES WAS STRAINED, HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE ON HIS RETURN FROM VANCOUVER.

+I DO NOT SEE WHAT HAS BEEN CLAIMED. MCA CABINET MINISTERS INCLUDING DATUK LEE KIM SAI STILL COME TO SEE ME AND I AM FROM UMNO. WE STILL GREET EACH OTHER,+ HE ADDED WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD CALL UP MCA MINISTERS TO GIVE THEM SOME ADVICE.

HE WAS POSED THE QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MCA'S JOINING THE OPPOSITION AND CHINESE ORGANISATIONS IN CALLING THE GOVERNMENT TO TRANSFER OUT NON-MANDARIN-EDUCATED CHINESE TEACHERS APPOINTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD EARLIER ADVISED THE NEWSPAPERS TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE AND NOT PUBLISH NEWS BASED ON STATEMENTS WHICH COULD HURT THE FEELINGS OF ANYONE. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HELPING TO PRESERVE THE NATION'S UNITY, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY RESTED WITH ALL AND NOT ONLY MINISTERS OR POLITICIANS.

HE SAID NEWSMEN SHOULD NOT ASK SOMEONE TO MAKE PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS ON ANY SENSITIVE ISSUE AND THEN ALSO PUBLISH THE REACTION FROM THE OTHER SIDE AS THIS WOULD ONLY CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDING.

+I WISH TO ADVISE NEWSPAPERS TO PLAY THEIR ROLE RESPONSIBLY IF WE ARE ALL COMMITTED TO BUILDING A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS NATION,+ HE ADDED.

ON UMNO YOUTH'S RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPEL DATUK LEE FROM THE CABINET, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD YET TO RECEIVE THE REQUEST.

ON THE DECISION OF THE 11 UMNO MEMBERS TO PROCEED WITH THEIR SUIT TO DECLARE THE APRIL UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY NULL AND VOID, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE A REPORT FROM UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID ON THE MATTER. -- BERNAMA
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