

D102

B E010 AAE
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO CAUSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL MOTIVES HAVE FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN THE LAWS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE GROUPS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS STILL " +POLITICALLY IMMATURE* HAD NOT APPRECIATED THE GOVERNMENT'S LIBERAL ATTITUDE AND COULD ONLY BE CONTROLLED BY STRINGENT LAWS.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM IS THEIR PARTY AND THE POLITICS OF THEIR PARTY. THEY WILL BE VERY HAPPY IF MALAYSIA GETS AN IMAGE OF BEING UNSTABLE AND UNATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS, + HE SAID WHEN TABLING THE POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

THE BILL SEEKS TO AMEND THE POLICE ACT 1967 BY TIGHTENING THE PROVISIONS TO ENABLE THE POLICE TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID AS FAR AS THESE GROUPS WERE CONCERNED, THE PEOPLE COULD GO ON SUFFERING FROM LACK OF JOBS JUST AS LONG AS THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE ALLEGATIONS THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS UNDEMOCRATIC, UNSTABLE AND UNABLE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS.

THEY HOPED THROUGH SUCH MEANS TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SERVE THE POLITICAL INTEREST OF THEIR PARTIES.

THEY WERE THE ONES WHO SPREAD FALSE STORIES ABOUT HOW BAD THINGS WERE IN MALAYSIA. THEY TOLD LIES BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO GET SYMPATHY FOR THEIR PARTY'S CAUSE, HE SAID. -- MORE

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TO THESE GROUPS, THE FACT THAT THEIR ACTIONS COULD THREATEN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEOPLE WAS OF NO CONSEQUENCE, HE SAID. THEY WERE, ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR LOOPHOLES IN THE LAWS IN ORDER TO CREATE MISCHIEF AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THEM.

+THEY KNOW IF THEY FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO COME DOWN HARD ON THEM, THE ACTION CAN BE TURNED INTO A POLITICAL ISSUE. AS SUCH, THEY PURPOSELY PLAY ABOUT WITH THE LAW TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE TOUGHER LAWS, + HE ADDED.

THEY WOULD THEN CONDEMN AND QUESTION THE GOVERNMENT FOR ENFORCING SUCH HARD LAWS AS WELL AS ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING UNDEMOCRATIC AND NOT LIBERAL WHEN THEY HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY PROVOKING THE GOVERNMENT INTO TAKING STRONGER ACTION.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS THEN FACED WITH A DILEMMA. IF THE LAWS ARE NOT BEEFED UP, THEY WILL DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO CREATE TROUBLE AND TENSION IN THIS COUNTRY.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT SHIRK ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST IN THE FACE OF WHATEVER LIES AND SLANDER THAT WERE SPREAD.

+TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT VALUE THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, WE DO NOT NEED TO BE LIBERAL. BEING LIBERAL TO SUCH PEOPLE WILL BE LIKE CASTING PEARLS BEFORE SWINE, + HE SAID. -- MORE

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B E015 AAE
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALALUMPUR

DATUKSERIDRMAHATHIR HIT OUT AT THE DAP FOR ALWAYS ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING UNDEMOCRATIC AND CLAIMING THE SOUNDING OF THE DEATH KNELL FOR DEMOCRACY EACH TIME THE GOVERNMENT DRAFTED A LAW.

+IF IT IS TRUE THE VARIOUS LAWS PASSED BY THIS HOUSE HAVE EACH BEEN A DEATH KNELL FOR DEMOCRACY, (I WANT TO KNOW) HOW, IS IT THAT DEMOCRACY CAN DIE SO MANY TIMES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID DEMOCRACY WAS NOT THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS, WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM WAS POLITICAL STABILITY AND A STRONG GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF ENFORCING THE LAW. THE LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE EAST WERE IN +LESS DEMOCRATIC+ COUNTRIES WHICH HOWEVER HAD STRONG GOVERNMENTS ABLE TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL POLITICAL STABILITY.

+NO ONE WOULD WANT TO INVEST IN A COUNTRY THAT IS VERY DEMOCRATIC BUT WHERE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE A DAILY EVENT AND A GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES EVERY TWO MONTHS.+

THE MOTIVE OF INVESTORS, HE SAID, WAS TO MAKE PROFITS AND NOT TO CHAMPION DEMOCRACY IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY CHOSE TO INVEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, TROUBLE RESULTING FROM ABUSE OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS WOULD NOT ATTRACT THEM. -- MORE
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B E017 AAE
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUKSERIDRMAHATHIR SAID BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT 'W.N.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE, AND TO ENSURE STABILITY, THE FREEDOM THAT HAD BEEN ABUSED BY A SMALL NUMBER OF FRUSTRATED POLITICIANS HAD TO BE CURBED.

HE HOPED THAT WITH THE AMENDMENT TO THE POLICE ACT, ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A MORE RESPONSIBLE MANNER AND WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS IN THE INTEREST OF SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER.

IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY, HE SAID, ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS COULD BECOME PREJUDICIAL TO SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER IF, THEY WERE AIMS AT CHALLENGING OR THREATENING OTHERS. -- BERNAMA
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