

0723

R E485 AAE
MAHATHIR-TRIBUNAL
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK TO TASK CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO QUESTIONED THE COMPOSITION OF THE TRIBUNAL SET UP TO HEAR CHARGES AGAINST SUSPENDED LORD PRESIDENT TUN MOHAMED SALLEH ABAS.

HE SAID THE ACTIONS OF THESE PEOPLE COULD TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE JUDICIARY WHEN +THEY ARE THE ONES SAYING THE IMAGE OF THE JUDICIARY SHOULD BE PROTECTED+.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE JUDICIARY IN THE COUNTRY IS QUALIFIED OR NOT, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING A BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

+SOME PEOPLE ARE DIVIDING THE JUDICIARY INTO PEOPLE CLOSE TO THIS OR CLOSE TO THAT, AND SAYING THIS ONE IS NOT QUALIFIED AND THAT ONE IS QUALIFIED. SO JUDGES ARE BEING CATEGORISED AS GOOD AND BAD,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN PEOPLE BEING NOT HAPPY WITH THE COMPOSITION OF THE TRIBUNAL CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF MALAYA TAN SRI ABDUL HAMID OMAR. -- MORE
1720MST 18 06 88

0726

R E486 AAE
MAHATHIR-TRIBUNAL 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+WHO HAS NO CONFLICT OF INTERESTS?. WHEN THERE IS NO ONE ABOVE, THE ONE BELOW WILL MOVE UP,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN.

ASKED WHETHER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRIBUNAL MIGHT BE CHANGED, HE SAID: +YOU CANNOT SATISFY PEOPLE.+

HE SAID THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS PEOPLE CHOOSING THEIR OWN JUDGES.

APART FROM TAN SRI HAMID, FIVE OTHER PEOPLE APPOINTED TO THE TRIBUNAL BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG ARE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF BORNEO, TAN SRI LEE HUN HOE, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF SRI LANKA, K.A.P. RANASINGHE, SENIOR JUDGE OF THE SINGAPORE SUPREME COURT, T.S. SINNATHURAY, RETIRED FEDERAL COURT JUDGE, TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ ZAIN AND RETIRED HIGH COURT JUDGE TAN SRI ZAHIR ISMAIL.

THE TRIBUNAL WAS SET UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 125 (3) AND (4) OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO INVESTIGATE AND RECOMMEND TO HIS MAJESTY WHETHER TUN MOHAMED SALLEH SHOULD BE REMOVED AS THE LORD PRESIDENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD BRIEFED THE MEETING ON THE SETTING UP OF THE TRIBUNAL. --BERNAMA
1725MST 18 06 88

0718

R E483 AAE
TRIBUNAL-DATE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM)

MEANWHILE, THE MALAYSIAN BAR COUNCIL TODAY PASSED SIX RESOLUTIONS, ONE OF WHICH CALLED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A STANDING COMMITTEE TO HELP TUN SALLEH AND HIS LEGAL ADVISERS IN FACING THE TRIBUNAL.

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED AFTER A THREE-HOUR EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) ATTENDED BY 751 MEMBERS OF THE BAR HERE.

BAR COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN S. THEIVANTHIRAN SAID THE STANDING COMMITTEE, TO BE SET UP SOON, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM 13 STATES IN MALAYSIA, WOULD MONITOR AND COMPILE ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, NEWS AND LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO +THE RECENT EROSION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY+,

THE BAR CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL THE AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AND TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CARDINAL PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

IT ALSO AGREED TO INSTRUCT COUNSEL, WITH LEAVE OF THE TRIBUNAL, IF NECESSARY, TO HOLD A WATCHING BRIEF ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL AND RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE AS THE TRIBUNAL MAY REQUIRE. -- BERNAMA
1710MST 18 06 88