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B E489 AAE
JUDGES - MAHATHIR RRR

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE SUPREME COURT WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS AS NORMAL DESPITE THE SUSPENSION OF FIVE OF ITS JUDGES.

THE FACT THAT THE COURT NOW LACKED FIVE JUDGES DID NOT MEAN THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD DONE WRONG SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, HE SAID IN REPOSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS BEFORE LEAVING HIS OFFICE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

ON THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE FIVE JUDGES, HE SAID OBVIOUSLY IT WAS BECAUSE THEY HAD DONE SOMETHING WRONG.

THE FIVE JUDGES ARE TAN SRI WAN SULEIMAN PAWAN TEH, DATUK GEORGE SEAH, TAN SRI MOHAMED AZMI KAMARUDDIN, TAN SRI EUSOFFE ABDOLCADER AND TAN SRI WAN HAMZAH MOHAMED SALLEH.

ON WHETHER NEW JUDGES WOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE SUPREME COURT, HE SAID: +EVENTUALLY I SUPPOSE THERE MUST BE NEW JUDGES.+

+OBVIOUSLY THE FIVE JUDGES CANNOT CARRY ON ANY MORE BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE A STAND.+ -- MORE
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JUDGES - MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

ON WHETHER HE NEEDS TO MAKE A REPRESENTATION TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO SET UP A TRIBUNAL TO HEAR ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE FIVE JUDGES, HE SAID THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG HAD ALREADY AGREED TO THE REPRESENTATION MADE BY ACTING LORD PRESIDENT TAN SRI ABDUL HAMID OMAR.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO SUSPEND THE JUDGES WAS MADE BY THE ACTING LORD PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

HE SAID THAT ONLY TWO PERSONS COULD MAKE REPRESENTATION TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG, THAT IS THE PRIME MINISTER OR THE LORD PRESIDENT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

ON WHETHER THE TRIBUNAL SET UP TO DETERMINE THE POSITION OF SUSPENDED LORD PRESIDENT TUN MOHAMED SALLEH ABAS WOULD BE USED TO HEAR THE CHARGES AGAINST THE FIVE JUDGES, HE SAID A NEW TRIBUNAL WOULD BE SET UP ACCORDING TO THE LAW.

IT WAS NOW UP TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL.

+OF COURSE, HE NEEDS TO BE ADVISED,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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