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PARLIAMENT-DEBATE
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIETIES ACT IS BEING MADE NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF UMNO BUT TO BENEFIT OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

+WE HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AND WE WILL NOT BECOME HALAL WITH THE AMENDMENT BILL,+ HE SAID WHEN WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT. THE BILL WAS LATER PASSED.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE DAP, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PARTY SHOULD BE CAREFUL AS IT COULD FACE A SIMILAR PROBLEM (AS UMNO'S) IN THE FUTURE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED HIS EXPLANATIONS ON THE FORMATION OF UMNO BARU, THE REJECTION OF THE APPLICATION TO REGISTER UMNO 88 SPONSORED BY HIMSELF AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND THAT OF UMNO MALAYSIA.

HE SAID BOTH THE APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED BECAUSE AT THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE SUBMITTED, THE ORIGINAL UMNO HAD NOT BEEN DE-REGISTERED APART FROM THE COURT RULING IT UNLAWFUL. -- MORE
2312MST 18 03 88

U E350 AAE
PARLIAMENT-DEBATE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (CORRECTED REPETITION)

THREE MEMBERS OF THE DAP TOOK PART IN THE DEBATE. THEY WERE ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (BUKIT BINTANG), DR CHEN MAN HIN (SEREMBAN) AND ENCIK GOOI HOCK SENG (BUKIT BENDERA) AND TWO BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS: DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD (KOK LANAS) AND DATUK SHAHRIR SAMAD (JOHOR BAHRU).

REFUTING CLAIMS THAT THE REGISTRAR WAS FAVOURING ONE SIDE, THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE DE-REGISTERING THE ORIGINAL UMNO, THE REGISTRAR NEED TO GET A REPLY TO HER SHOW CAUSE LETTER AS TO WHY THE ORGANISATION SHOULD NOT BE DE-REGISTERED.

+ACTUALLY WE FOLLOWED THE SCHEDULE CAREFULLY AND WE SOUGHT LEGAL OPINION AND DID NOT ACT INDISCRIMINATELY.+

ON CLAIMS THAT HE DID NOT RESORT TO SECTION 70 TO SAVE UMNO, HE FELT THAT HE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE COURT.

IF HE HAD RESORTED TO THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CRITICISED BY THE DAP, HE SAID.

THE DEWAN WILL SIT AGAIN ON MONDAY.

-- BERNAMA
2320MST 18 03 88