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ANWAR-SLANDER
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 12 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM SAID TODAY THE PEOPLE OPPOSED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SHOULD STOP THEIR SLANDER CAMPAIGN IF THEY ARE SINCERE IN WANTING MALAY UNITY.

+THIS IS NOT A CONDITION (FOR HAVING THE PROPOSED TALKS BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK MUSA HITAM AND TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH),+ HE SAID TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SECRETARIES AND ADMINISTRATORS HERE.

HE SAID THE GROUP AGAINST DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR OFTEN CAME OUT WITH CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS. THEY RUN DOWN THE PRIME MINISTER, THEN ASK HIM TO HAVE TALKS WITH THEM, HE ADDED.

EMCIK ANWAR WHO IS ALSO AN UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT SAID THIS WHEN ASKED WHETHER A THIRD PARTY SHOULD MEDIATE TO EXPEDITE THE HOLDING OF THE PROPOSED TALKS BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND DATUK MUSA HITAM. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THIRD PARTY INTERVENTION WAS NEEDED DID NOT ARISE, BUT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS FOR THE GROUP OPPOSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO CEASE THEIR PERSONAL AND DEFAMATORY ATTACKS.

DATUK MUSA, HE SAID, WOULD NOT HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAD EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO +MEET ANYBODY+ FOR TALKS ON MALAY UNITY.

HE SAID EVEN MINISTERS WERE GIVEN NOT MORE THAN 30 MINUTES TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER BUT DATUK MUSA HAD BEEN GIVEN UP TO TWO HOURS IN THE PAST, WITHOUT HAVING TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT FIRST.

HE SAID THE SLANDER CAMPAIGN WAS DELIBERATELY FOSTERED BY THE GROUP +TO COVER UP THEIR OWN FAULTS.+

HE CLAIMED THESE PEOPLE HAD ENJOYED BENEFITS WHILE SERVING IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT LATER MADE ALL KINDS OF BASELESS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER TO +DISTRACT ATTENTION AWAY FROM THEIR SHORTCOMINGS.+

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JOHOR BAHRU DATUK SHAHRIR SAMAD RECENTLY PROPOSED THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS DEPUTY GHAFAR BABA TOGETHER WITH DATUK MUSA AND TENGGU RAZALEIGH SIT DOWN FOR TALKS ON +RESTORING MALAY UNITY.+ -- BERNAMA
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