

U 8363 AAE
MAHATHIR-KELANTAN
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MUAR, DEC 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL REFER THE RECENT MASSIVE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS IN KELANTAN TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT FROM THE KELANTAN GOVERNMENT.

THE FORM OF ACTION WAS BEING CONSIDERED, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH MORE THAN 500 UMNO LEADERS FROM NINE UMNO DIVISIONS IN JOHOR.

THE PREMIER SAID THIS WHEN ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE MASSIVE TRANSFER EXERCISE INVOLVING 21 KELANTAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND 16.

THE TRANSFER TOOK PLACE WHEN MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMAD YAKOUB WAS AWAY FROM THE STATE FOR A FEW DAYS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A FULL REPORT ON THE MATTER BUT BELIEVED IT WENT AGAINST NORMAL PRACTICE AND POSSIBLY VIOLATED REGULATIONS.

IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOUND THAT REGULATIONS HAD NOT BEEN OBSERVED THAN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ALLOCATIONS, HE SAID. -- MORE
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+THIS IS BECAUSE ALLOCATIONS ARE GIVEN ONLY THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS.+

+IF THE OFFICER HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AND HE IS HOLDING A POST WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, IT WILL THEN BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO ALLOW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATIONS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY SUCH AN OFFICER WHOSE POSITION MAY NOT BE LAWFUL,+ THE PREMIER SAID.

+THIS MATTER WILL BE REFERRED TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AFTER A REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

+THE FORM OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN WAS BEING CONSIDERED,+ HE ADDED. ON SPEEDY ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE MATTER, THE PREMIER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY ACT THROUGH LAWFUL CHANNELS AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT THAT WAS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A FULL REPORT ON THE MATTER AND ONLY CAME TO KNOW ABOUT IT THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID HE SUPPORTED ALL EFFORTS TO RESTORE UNITY AMONG THE MALAYS AND AMONG UMNO MEMBERS.

HE SAID THIS WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE INITIATIVE BEING TAKEN BY THE JOHOR UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE TO BRING ABOUT MALAY UNITY.

AS PART OF THE INITIATIVE, JOHOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN HAD MET DATUK MUSA HITAM ON TWO OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE GAVE HIS BLESSINGS TO ANY INITIATIVE TOWARDS UNITY NOT ONLY FROM JOHOR BUT TO ANYONE WHO MADE SUCH EFFORTS. -- BERNAMA

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