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MAHATHIR-KELANTAN

BM

SINGAPORE, DEC 13 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TRANSFER AFFAIR IN KELANTAN IS RELATED TO THE CURRENT POLITICS THERE AS SUCH THINGS HAVE NEVER HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS HERE THERE WAS NO REASON FOR SUCH AN ISSUE TO CROP UP UNLESS DUE TO THE EVIDENT POLITICAL MISUNDERSTANDING IN KELANTAN.

HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FELT NO ADMINISTRATION COULD BE EFFECTIVE IF ONE QUARTER ADMINISTERED, AND ANOTHER TRANSFERRED OFFICERS AROUND.

EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT, HE SAID THIS MESAGES THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, WITH THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT BEING OPPOSED BY A BODY THAT IS NOT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THERE WERE PEOPLE BEHIND THE INCIDENT BECAUSE THE KELANTAN PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (KSPM) HAD NEVER RESORTED TO SUCH AN ACTION AND HAD NO REASON TO DO THIS UNLESS INSTIGATED BY PEOPLE WITH VESTED INTERESTS.

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HE WILL STUDY THIS DEFIANCE OF THE POWERS OF A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT SO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WILL NOT BE THREATENED BY THE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ASKED WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL DO IF THE PROBLEM REMAINED UNRESOLVED, HE SAID ONCE WE HAVE REACHED A CERTAIN STAGE, WE KNOW WHAT TO CONSIDER.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT BLAME THE OFFICERS CONCERNED BUT THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK A LINE OF ACTION THEY HAD NEVER RESORTED TO BEFORE.

HE ALSO SAID KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMED YAACOB MET HIM YESTERDAY AND BRIEFED HIM ON HIS (MENTERI BESAR'S) RECENT AUDIENCE WITH THE SULTAN OF KELANTAN.

THE PROBLEM FIRST CROPPED UP WHEN THE KELANTAN STATE SECRETARY ISSUED TRANSFER ORDERS FOR 20 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THE MENTERI BESAR OR STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE EXCO REVISED THE ORDERS AND FOLLOWING THIS, THE KELANTAN PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION PM UPHOLD THE ORIGINAL TRANSFER LIST OF THE STATE SECRETARY. THE STATE GOVERNMENT HOWEVER OVERRIDE THE SFM DECISION. -- BERNAMA

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