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B 8773 AAE
MOHAMED-CRISIS
OH

KOTA BAHARU, DEC 22 (BERMAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS AGREED TO THE TRANSFER ISSUE OF THE 20 KELANTAN STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS BEING BROUGHT TO THE COURT FOR A SETTLEMENT, MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMED YAACOB SAID TODAY.

SEEKING A SETTLEMENT IN COURT WAS THE BEST WAY OF UPHOLDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAW, HE ADDED.

TAN SRI MOHAMED LED AN EIGHT-MEMBER STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND STATE UMNO DELEGATION TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER IN KUALA LUMPUR LAST NIGHT AND EARLY THIS MORNING.

AT THE MEETING, THE MENTERI BESAR AND HIS DELEGATION DISCUSSED WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THE STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A THANKSGIVING FUNCTION ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE KOTA BAHARU AND PENKALAN CHEPA UMNO DIVISIONS AT THE PENKALAN CHEPA HARA JUNIOR SCIENCE COLLEGE HERE, THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSULT ATTORNEY-GENERAL TAN SRI ABU TALIB OTHMAN WHEN THE LATTER RETURNS FROM HIS VACATION OVERSEAS. --
MORE

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THE CONTROVERSY STARTED WHEN THE STATE SECRETARY ON DEC 4 ISSUED TRANSFER ORDERS FOR 20 OFFICERS WITHOUT REPORTEDLY CONSULTING THE MENTERI BESAR OR STATE EXCO.

THE TRANSFER LIST WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED BY THE EXCO AND THE CONTROVERSY WORSEMED WHEN THE STATE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (SPSC) REVOKED THE EXCO'S TRANSFER DIRECTIVES ON DEC 11 AND ISSUED FRESH DIRECTIVES BASED ON THE STATE SECRETARY'S LIST.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT OBJECTED TO THE SPSC ACTION AND WARNED THAT DISCIPLINARY ACTION WOULD BE INSTITUTED AGAINST ANY OFFICER IGNORING THE EXCO DIRECTIVES AND GOING BY THE SPSC ORDERS.

TAN SRI MOHAMED SAID THE REPORT ON OFFICERS REFUSING TO OBEY THE EXCO TRANSFER DIRECTIVES HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE STATE SECRETARY YESTERDAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES SET OUT IN THE GENERAL ORDERS.

ASKED ABOUT OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUE WHICH HE HAS DESCRIBED AS A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN THE STATE, TAN SRI MOHAMED CONFIRMED A REPORT SAYING EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM WAS GIVEN AN AUDIENCE BY THE SULTAN OF KELANTAN TWO DAYS AGO IN EFFORTS TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

HE SAID THE RESPONSE SHOWED THERE WERE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MATTER WHICH WOULD SEE A RESOLUTION WHEN THE TIME CAME. -- MORE
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THE MENTERI BESAR SAID THE INITIATIVE BY THE EDUCATION MINISTER HAD THE BLESSINGS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAFAR BADA, BUT STRESSED IT WAS NOT UNDERTAKEN AT THE DIRECTIVE OF THE →HIGHER-UPS.→

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHETHER THE INITIATIVE HAD BEEN FRUITFUL, HE REPLIED →WE PRAY, AND ARE CONFIDENT, THIS IS SO.→

ON THE UMNO CERAMAH ORGANISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE, TAN SRI MOHAMED SAID IT WAS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE SITUATION SO THEY WOULD NOT BE CONFUSED BY A CERTAIN GROUP.

THE MATTER SHOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED AS AN EFFORT TO OPPOSE THE ISTANA (PALACE) AS IT WAS SOLELY TO UPHOLD RESPECT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY AND ENSURE THE INSTITUTION WAS NOT EXPLOITED BY ANY QUARTER, HE ADDED.

DEFENCE MINISTER TENSKU AHMAD RETHAUDEEN AND PERINGAT ASSEMBLYMAN HAJI ANMUAR MUSA ALSO SPOKE AT THE FUNCTION ATTENDED BY NEARLY 1,000 PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA

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