

D718

U E258 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT R R R
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 14 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE ELECTION ACT WILL BE AMENDED TO AVOID HAVING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN RESIGNING AND RE-CONTESTING JUST TO TEST THEIR INFLUENCE.

COMMENTING ON SELANGOR UMNO'S CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO AMEND THE ACT, HE SAID THE MATTER WAS VERY SERIOUS AND HE WOULD BRING IT UP AT THE CABINET MEETING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE OPEN HOUSE OF INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT AT A HOTEL HERE, HE SAID AN ELECTION WAS A SERIOUS AFFAIR INVOLVING GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

+THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WANT TO BE USED TO DETERMINE WHO IS STRONG AND WHO IS NOT;+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1806MST 14 05 89

U E261 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HANDLED PUBLIC FUNDS AND HE DID NOT THINK THE PEOPLE WOULD ALLOW CERTAIN QUARTERS TO USE THEIR MONEY TO TEST THEIR POPULARITY AGAINST EACH OTHER.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF AN ELECTION WAS TO CHOOSE A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PEOPLE.

AN ELECTION WAS NOT SOMETHING TO BE USED TO FISH FOR VOTES AS THERE WERE MANY MORE ISSUES THAT COULD BE PLAYED UP, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY ANY MATTER THAT COULD BE AMENDED IN THE ACT.

FOR EXAMPLE, ANYONE WHO RESIGNED HIS SEAT WITHOUT A REASONABLE EXCUSE MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTEST AGAIN IN THE FOLLOWING ELECTION, HE SAID. -- MORE

1809MST 14 05 89

U E262 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE CHALLENGE BETWEEN MCA DEPUTY PRESIDENT LEE KIM SAI AND DAP DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LEE LAM THYE TO CONTEST IN THE SEPUTEH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO MISUNDERSTOOD THE ROLE OF AN ELECTION TO BE THAT OF DETERMINING WHO WAS STRONGER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS PUZZLED AT THE DAP CHALLENGE TO THE MCA TO CONTEST IN A CHINESE-MAJORITY AREA ONLY WHEN THE PARTY CLAIMED THAT IT PRACTISED A MULTIRACIAL PRINCIPLE.

HE SAID IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE VOTES OF THE NON-CHINESE LIKE THE MALAYS AND INDIANS WERE NOT IMPORTANT OR VALUABLE TO THE DAP.

HE SAID SUCH A PRACTICE BY THE DAP WAS UNHEALTHY IN TERMS OF RELATIONS AMONG THE COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

ON THE RESIGNATION OF ENCIK LEE KIM SAI AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HULU LANGAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A BN REPRESENTATIVE'S RESIGNATION WAS NOT HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY BUT THAT OF THE BN. -- MORE

1826MST 14 05 89

U E267 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, SAID: +WE ARE THE ONES WHO SELECTED HIM AS A BN CANDIDATE, SO IF HE WANTS TO RESIGN, SO LONG AS HE IS IN THE BN, HE HAS TO GET PERMISSION FIRST.+

HE SAID THAT SO FAR ENCIK LEE KIM SAI HAD NOT OBTAINED PERMISSION TO RESIGN AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

HE SAID A BN REPRESENTATIVE COULD NOT RESIGN AT WITH HIS OWN WILL BUT ONLY WITH THE BN'S CONSENT.

ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ENCIK LEE KIM SAI WENT AHEAD WITH HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN AND RE-CONTEST, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD WOULD NOT GET THE BN SUPPORT.

HE SAID ANY ELECTION HELD WITHOUT THE BLESSING OF THE BN WOULD NOT GET ITS SUPPORT OR HELP. -- MORE

1905MST 14 05 89

D751

R E270 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MATTER WOULD BE BROUGHT UP AT THE MEETING OF THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL NEXT MONTH.

ON A CABINET RESHUFFLE, HE SAID THAT SO FAR HE HAD NOT THOUGHT ABOUT THE MATTER.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE PLANS TO APPOINT A NEW FACE TO FILL THE VACANT POST OF A MINISTER OR DEPUTY MINISTER.

MEANWHILE, IN KUALA SELANGOR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOMORROW TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ENCIK LEE'S RESIGNATION AS MP FOR HULU LANGAT.

IF ENCIK LEE'S RESIGNATION IS ACCEPTED, IT MEANS THREE BY-ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD -- IN HULU LANGAT, BUKIT BINTANG AND SEPUTEH. -- MORE

1927MST 14 05 89

R E271 AAE
MAHATHIR-ACT 6 KUALA LUMPUR

PERSONALLY, HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE THREE BY-ELECTIONS BEING HELD AND HE WOULD ASK DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE MATTER, ENCIK GHAFAR SAID AFTER LAUNCHING THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF UMNO ORGANISED BY THE KUALA SELANGOR UMNO DIVISION.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, AS BN CHAIRMAN, COULD DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ENCIK LEE'S RESIGNATION. -- BERNAMA
1928MST 14 05 89