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MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS (RPTING CORRECTING 3RD PARA)

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 21 (BERNAMA) -- THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE ELECTIONS ACT TO STOP ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM RE-CONTESTING AFTER RESIGNING THEIR POSTS WITHOUT VALID REASON IS BEING STUDIED BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

ASKED WHAT WAS MEANT BY VALID REASON, HE SAID +DEATH, SICKNESS ... BUT IF HE CAN MAKE CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, THAT IS NOT VALID+.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THIS AFTER MEETING PARTIALLY-BLIND ENCIK LEONG CHEE KONG, A REGULAR FOLLOWER OF THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND SENATE PROCEEDINGS SINCE 1964, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

ENCIK LEONG, FROM TANGKAK, MUAR, WHO SELLS BISCUITS IN SINGAPORE, WOULD TRAVEL ALL THE WAY HERE FOR EVERY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BECAUSE OF HIS +INTEREST IN LAW AND POLITICS+ AND HAD EXPRESSED HIS WISH TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER TO DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR ISMAIL.

ASKED WHEN THE STUDY WOULD BE READY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL NEEDED TIME TO STUDY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

HE HOWEVER DID NOT DISCLOSE WHEN THE PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL. -- MORE

1953MST 21 06 89

0727

U E600 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ELECTIONS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF UMNO DIVISIONS AND BRANCHES, THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE STATE UMNO LIAISON BODIES HAD BEEN EMPOWERED TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM REGARDING MEMBERS WHO COULD ATTEND THESE MEETINGS.

+WE HAVE GIVEN POWERS TO THE STATE LIAISON BODIES TO OVERCOME ALL PROBLEMS THAT ARISE,+ HE SAID, WHEN ASKED WHETHER THOSE WHO PRODUCED MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE RECEIPTS COULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MET ENCIK LEONG, 55, FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES AT THE REST ROOM OF THE SENATE.

ENCIK LEONG SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID HE COULD ONLY SEE LIGHT AND THE HEIGHT OF A PERSON BUT HE COULD RECOGNISE THE VOICES OF SEVERAL MPS.

HE ADDED THAT THE MPS AND THE STAFF AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE WERE GOOD TO HIM.

PRESENT WERE TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR AND DEWAN RAKYAT SECRETARY DATUK WAN ZAHIR SHEIKH ABU BAKAR. -- BERNAMA

1959MST 21 06 89