

D744

U E 7 1 7 E N G S I N

LEAD PRISON-INQUIRY

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER-DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE HAS RECEIVED THE PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE ABDULLAH ANG ISSUE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER SAID THE REPORT WOULD BE STUDIED BEFORE ANY ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE MATTER.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AFTER OPEN-ING THE SECOND MALAYS CIVILISATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HERE, IN CONNECTION WITH OUTCOME OF HIS MEETING WITH DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB EARLIER TODAY ON THE ISSUE.

ANG WHO WAS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL BRECH OF TRUST, WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO MOVE AROUND FREELY OUTSIDE THE KAJANG PRISON WHERE HE WAS SERVING SENTENCE.

IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT ANG WAS SEEN OFTEN OUTSIDE HIS FAMILY FACTORY IN SENTUL WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING AT AN ORCHID FARM IN KAJANG UNDER THE PRISON REHABILITATION PROGRAMME. -- MORE  
1818MST 15 08 89

D752

U E 7 2 3 A A E

LEAD PRISON-INQUIRY 2 KUALA LUMPUR (RPTING)

DATUK MEGAT JUNID TOLD A PRESSCONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING THAT AN INQUIRY COMMITTEE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL HAD BEEN SET UP TO STUDY WEAKNESSES IN THE PRISON SYSTEM FOLLOWING THE EXPOSURE.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE HEADED BY THE MINISTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (1) HAJI WAN AWANG WAN YAACOB AND COMPRISE THE FEDERAL SENIOR COUNSEL, THE MINISTRY +A+ DIVISION SECRETARY, WITH ITS DEPUTY SECRETARY AS THE SECRETARY.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BECAUSE THE MINISTRY WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. THE COMMITTEE COMPRISED THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (1) HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN MOHAMAD ALI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (11) MOHAMAD NAZRI MOHAMAD KUSHAIRY, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SHAMSUDDIN TAN SRI MURAD AND DIRECTOR OF REHABILITATION RAJA GHAZALI RAJA NGAH ALI.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WAS SUBMITTED LATE YESTERDAY AND COMMITTEE WAS RECALLED THIS MORNING TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS TO THE MINISTRY.

+THE COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ON TRE WEAKNESSES AND WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
1834MST 15 08 89

D754

U E 7 2 5 A A E  
LEAD PRISON-INQUIRY 3 KUALA LUHPUR

+THE SETTING OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY WAS APPROVED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO CALLED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST THOSE FOUND INVOLVED IN ANY MALPRACTICES LEADING TO THE ANG ISSUE, HE SAID.

+THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IRREGULARITIES AND WILL TAKE UP LEGAL ACTION IF THEY WERE FOUND GUILTY, HE SAID.

DATUK HEGAT JUNID SAID THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE WOULD FOLLOW CERTAIN GUIDELINES :

+ GUIDED BY THE PRISON'S DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY REPORT, THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE DISCREPANCIES AND WEAKNESSES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR CONVICTS DUE FOR RELEASE,

+THEY SHOULD LOOK INTO ALL SPECIAL PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO CONVICTS SUCH AS THAT QUOTED IN THE NEW STRAITS TIMES ISSUE AUG 15, AND

+RECOMMEND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE SITUATION AND ANY ACTION AGAINST ANY PARTIES FOUND TO BE IN THE WRONG. -- MORE  
1838HST 15 08 89

D869

R E 7 2 7 A A E  
LEAD PRISON-INQUIRY 4 KUALA LUHPUR

DATUK HEGAT JUNID SAID AMONG THE POINTS MENTIONED IN THE FIVE-PAGE PRISONS DEPARTMENT REPORT WHICH RAISED DOUBTS, WERE THE NUMBER OF TIMES ANG WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE PRISON FOR KUALA LUHPUR WHERE HE HAD TO ATTEND TO SOME PERSONAL PROBLEMS, WHY HE WAS NOT ESCORTED BY A WARDER WHEN OUTSIDE THE PRISON COMPOUND, OR IF IT ONLY OCCURRED ON THE DAY THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN BY THE PRESS CAMERAMAN! WHY WAS HE NOT DRESSED IN PRISON CLOTHES, THAT IS WHITE SHIRT AND BROWN SHORT PANTS WHEN OUT WORKING.

ANOTHER POINT WAS WHY ABDULLAH ANG WAS ENTERED INTO THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME EARLY, THAT IS BEFORE COMPLETING 2/3 OF HIS SENTENCE. ANG WAS SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS' IMPRISONMENT ON DEC 12 1986. HE WAS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME ON MARCH 28 1988.

HE SAID TO DATE, SIX TO SEVEN PRISON STAFF HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ANG AFFAIR, SAYING THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM AFTER THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT WAS STUDIED.

THOSE INVOLVED HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SECTIONS PENDING INVESTIGATION, HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A PRESS REPORT TODAY WHICH CLAIMED THAT SEVERAL OTHER CONVICTS IN THE KAJANG PRISON WERE ACCORDED SPECIAL TREATMENT, DATUK HEGAT JUNID SAID THE MINISTRY WOULD INVESTIGATE THE CLAIMS.

ACCORDING TO PRISON REGULATIONS, ALL CONVICTS WERE TO BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT, HE SAID. -- BERNAHA

2232MST 15 08 89