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R E122 E N G S I N
MAHATHIR - ISLAM
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 17 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE ISSUE RELATING TO THE ISLAMIC LAW ENACTMENT APPROVED BY THE SELANGOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECENTLY HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

+THE RESOLUTION WAS MADE ACCORDING TO THAT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) METHOD, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING UMNO REPRESENTATIVES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE.

THE MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND NO ONE WANTED TO RESIGN, HE SAID ADDING THAT THE BN WAY OF SETTLING PROBLEMS WOULD BE USED IN RESOLVING WHATEVER PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE METHOD USED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE NEED NOT BE PUBLICISED AS IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY THE BETTER WAY OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS WAS TO CONFINE IT WITHIN THE ORGANISATION AND NOT TO PUBLICISE IT TO OTHERS.

+WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM NO RACE WILL-GAIN OR LOSE AND NON-MUSLIMS NEED NOT WORRY AND MUSLIMS CANNOT COMPLAIN THAT THEIR REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET, + HE SAID. -- MORE
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R E127 E N G S I N
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE BN LEADERSHIP HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER AND UNDERSTOOD WHATEVER PROBLEMS AND REALISED THAT WHATEVER THINGS DONE DID NOT LEAD TO LOSSES TO ANY GROUP.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HIMSELF HAD MET ALL THE MENTERIS BESAR WHO AGREED TO THE SETTLEMENT REACHED.

THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY WERE ADEQUATE TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS AND THERE WAS NO NECESSITY TO RAISE THE METHOD USED, HE ADDED.

THE ENACTMENT APPROVED BY THE SELANGOR STATE ASSEMBLY ON JULY 19 AMONG OTHERS STATED THAT NON MUSLIMS WERE FREE TO CONVERT TO ISLAM ON REACHING THE AGE OF PUBERTY ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAWS.

ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAWS THE AGE OF PUBERTY FOR BOYS IS 15 AND FOR GIRLS ON HAVING THEIR FIRST PERIOD. -- MORE
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R E128 E N G S I N
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS STATED THAT FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE BILL, EIGHT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SELANGOR STATE ASSEMBLY FROM THE MCA WHO SUPPORTED IT WERE PREPARED TO RESIGN FROM THE PARTY AND AS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IF THE ISSUE WAS NOT RESOLVED AT PARTY LEVEL.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED NEWSPAPERS NOT TO BLOW UP SUCH MATTERS WHICH COULD DIVIDE THE PEOPLE BUT REPORT ON OTHER ISSUES.

+OUR COUNTRY IS PEACEFUL AND DEVELOPING, EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT FROM THE PEACE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO FOCUS ON MATTERS THAT DIVIDE -- NO ONE WILL BENEFIT, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SATISFY ALL GROUPS IN RESOLVING WHATEVER PROBLEMS ADDING +THERE IS NO METHOD TO APPEASE ALL GROUPS. THIS FACT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS A FACT OF LIFE. +

HE SAID DISPUTES LIKE THOSE IN LEBANON SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND PREVENTED FROM TAKING PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA
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