

U E406 AAE
MAHATHIR-RESOLUTION
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY THAT ANY PROPOSAL ON CHANGES TO THE PARTY SHOULD FIRST BE REFERRED TO THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED AS A CONDITION FOR HIS MEETING WITH SEMANGAT 46 PARTY LEADER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE RESOLUTION WAS MERELY AN INDICATION THAT MEMBERS WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RIGHTS IN DETERMINING PARTY POLICIES WOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD ALWAYS HELD FULL POWER TO MAKE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTY CONSTITUTION, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S PREPAREDNESS, AS PARTY PRESIDENT, TO MEET WITH ANYONE FOR THE SAKE OF MALAY UNITY ON CONDITION THAT ANY PROPOSAL THAT COULD RESULT IN CHANGES TO UMNO SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE ASSEMBLY FIRST.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS MADE BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE QUESTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTY CONSTITUTION WOULD BE RAISED WHEN THE MEETING TOOK PLACE. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAVE EACH EXPRESSED AGREEMENT TO MEET WITHOUT ANY CONDITION.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT CRITICISMS AGAINST TENGKU RAZALEIGH DURING THE DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION AT THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SOMETHING THAT WOULD HINDER EFFORTS TOWARDS HAVING THE MEETING.

+WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. IF THEY WANT TO SPEAK UP, HOW CAN WE STOP THEM,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CALL BY THE PULAU PINANG DELEGATE THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN SHOULD NOT ACT AS A MEDIATOR AT THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE TUNKU DID NOT ASK TO BE A MEDIATOR, WE WERE THE ONES WHO ASKED HIM.+

ASKED ON THE PWTC FURNITURE EXHIBITION, HE SAID THAT IT WAS AIMED AT CLEARING DOUBTS AMONG SOME MEMBERS BECAUSE MANY HAD INQUIRED REGARDING THE EXHOBITANT COST OF THE BUILDING. +IF WE DO NOT HOLD IT, PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT WE ARE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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ON A PRESSMAN'S COMMENT THAT THE PRICE OF THE FURNITURE WAS UNREASONABLE AS THE PRICE OF AN ASH TRAY IS SAID TO COST AS HIGH AS \$900, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +IT IS UP TO THE PUBLIC TO ASSESS.+

ASKED WHY THIS WAS ONLY DONE NOW, HE SAID THAT THE DETAILED PRICES JUST BEEN OBTAINED.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE PWTC ADMINISTRATION CHANGED ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO AND HE WAS TOLD BY THE NEW MANAGEMENT THAT THEY WERE STUDYING THE DOCUMENT.

HE ADDED THAT UMNO COULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON WHAT WAS ALLEGED AS ABUSE IN THE PURCHASE OF THE FURNITURE BECAUSE THE PARTY'S ASSETS AT PRESENT WERE UNDER THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT UMNO DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG BEFORE THE ASSETS COULD BE RETURNED TO THE PARTY AS IT NEEDED PROOF ON THE MEMBERSHIP. -- BERNAMA
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