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ASSEMBLYMEN-MAHATHIR R R R

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DESCRIBED THE CONDITIONAL RESIGNATION OF EIGHT MCA ASSEMBLYMEN FROM THE SELANGOR STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY EFFECTIVE DEC 15 AS A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND AGAINST THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY HE HAD EARLIER EXPECTED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE COALITION BUT IT SEEMED THE FORMULA TO OVERCOME IT WAS NOT FRUITFUL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE, DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ACTION OF THE ASSEMBLYMEN HAD RENDERED THE FORMULA FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE IRRELEVANT.

DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS SHOCKED UPON LEARNING THE NEWS OF THEIR RESIGNATION ADDING THAT THE ASSEMBLYMEN'S ULTIMATUM WAS A THREAT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT THE WAY TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM.

ALL THE EIGHT MCA STATE ASSEMBLYMEN SAID THEY WOULD RESIGN ON DEC 15 IF SECTIONS 67 AND 70 OF THE STATE'S ADMINISTRATION OF ISLAMIC LAW ENACTMENT PASSED LAST JULY ARE NOT AMENDED IN THE NEXT SITTING OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.-- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SETTING SUCH AN ULTIMATUM WAS LIKE MAKING A THREAT.

+WE CAN MAKE DEMANDS BUT CANNOT MAKE THREAT LIKE THAT,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER HE WAS TOLD OF THE INTENDED RESIGNATION BY THE MCA LEADERSHIP TODAY.

ON BARISAN NASIONAL'S NEXT POSSIBLE MOVE ON THE MATTER HE SAID:+THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO DO....THEY WANT TO RESIGN .. LET THEM+.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF STATE BY-ELECTION IN THE EIGHT CONSTITUENCIES IN SELANGOR, DR MAHATHIR SAID :+ WHEN THERE IS VACANCY, OBVIOUSLY THERE WILL BE ELECTION+.

THE EIGHT MCA ASSEMBLYMEN -- DATUK YAP PIAN HON (SERDANG), DATUK NG THIAN HOCK (PANDAMARAN), ENCIK TANG SEE HANG (RAWANG), ENCIK TONG YOKE SENG (TELOK GADONG), ENCIK WONG AH TAIH (KUALA KUBU BAHRU), ENCIK ENG HOI CHOO (PANGLIMA GARANG), ENCIK SIM KENG SEIK (SEKINCHAN) AND ENCIK NG SOON POR (SUNGAI PELEK) TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATION LETTERS ON MONDAY.-- BERNAMA
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