

D944

U E026 ENG MES  
REPETITION REPLACING EARLIER ITEM R R R  
MAHATHIR-ISA RRR  
BM

KOTA BAHARU, DEC 1 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) IS VERY USEFUL IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THE ISA WAS NOT SOLELY APPLIED AGAINST COMMUNIST THREATS BUT ALSO WHEN RACIAL RIOTS THREATENED TO JEOPARDISE NATIONAL SECURITY.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO RESORT TO THE ISA TO DEFUSE RACIAL TENSION IN 1987.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE SULTAN ISMAIL PETRA AIRPORT IN PENKALAN CHEPA HERE BEFORE LEAVING FOR PULAU PINANG.

THE TENSION THEN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH COMMUNIST THREAT BUT WAS MORE OF RACIAL AND RELIGION-RELATED PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER SAID, +WHEN WE ENFORCED THE ISA AT THAT TIME, THE TENSION WAS DEFUSED ALTHOUGH NOW THE PUBLIC HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE INCIDENT.+

HE WAS COMMENTING ON TODAY'S NEWSREPORTS QUOTING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA AS SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY WITHDRAW THE ISA IF THERE IS ASSURANCE OF NO RACIAL STRIFE IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE  
1159MST 01 12 89

D940

U E025 ENG MES  
MAHATHIR-ISA 2 KOTA BAHARU RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FOR THE TIME BEING THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE ANY DECISION ON THE MATTER.

HE SAID IT WAS COINCIDENTAL THAT DURING THE 1987 RACIAL TENSION, A SOLDIER UNDER NERVOUS PRESSURE HAD FIRED SHOTS DURING A RAMPAGE WHICH HAD NO RACIAL LINK AND HAD CAUSED KUALA LUMPUR TO BE DESERTED.

HE SAID, + PARENTS REFUSED TO SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL, 20,000 PEOPLE LEFT KUALA LUMPUR AND SOME FLED THE COUNTRY FOR FEAR OF ANOTHER RACIAL RIOT LIKE THE ONE IN 1969.+

IN SUCH A SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO ENFORCE THE ISA TO ISOLATE THOSE WHO WERE SECURITY THREATS AND WHEN THEY HAVE REPENTED, IT RELEASED THEM FROM DETENTION, HE SAID. -- MORE  
1148MST 01 12 89

D953

U E028 ENG MES  
MAHATHIR-ISA 3 KOTA BAHARU RRR

ON MCA DEPUTY PRESIDENT ENCIK LEE KIM SAI DISAGREEING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT THE RESIGNATION OF THE EIGHT MCA STATE ASSEMBLYMEN IN SELANGOR WAS A THREAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID :+ I TOO DON'T AGREE WITH THEIR ACTION+.

+IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WE SETTLE PROBLEMS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND WE HAVE RESOLVED HUNDREDS OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COOPERATIVE, MULTI-PURPOSE, ON EDUCATION, LANGUAGE, CHINESE SCHOOL TEACHERS AND MANY OTHERS.+

+WHY SHOULD THESE EIGHT GIVE AN ULTIMATUM...IF THIS IS NOT DONE, WE'LL RESIGN. THIS IS PUTTING PRESSURE AND MAKING A THREAT.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE COULD INTERPRET WHETHER WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE OR NOT.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MCA LEAVING THE BARISAN NASIONAL OVER THE ISSUE, HE SAID : + I WOULDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT AND I HOPE THERE IS NO SUCH INTENTION+. -- MORE  
1217MST 01 12 89

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U E029 ENG MES  
MAHATHIR-ISA 4 KOTA BAHARU RRR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO WAS BRIEFED YESTERDAY ON PREPARATION FOR FLOODS IN KELANTAN SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE VARIOUS MEASURES TAKEN.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD CLEAN UP RIVERS TO ENSURE SMOOTH FLOW OF WATER AND TO AVOID OVERFLOWING OF BANKS.

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT \$26 MILLION IN AID OF VICTIMS OF LAST YEAR'S FLOODS IN KELANTAN, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PROPOSED THAT TRADERS WHO HAD TO CLOSE THEIR STALLS DURING FLOODS CONDUCT BUSINESS ON SAMPANS INSTEAD.

HE SAID THESE SAMPANS SHOULD BE LINED UP SIDE BY SIDE IN A ROW AND DECORATED.

PERHAPS THIS COULD BE A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT DURING THE MONSOONS IN SUPPORT OF MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMED YAACOB'S RECENT PLANS TO TURN THE YEARLY FLOOD INTO A WATER CARNIVAL IN THE STATE, HE SAID.--  
BERNAMA

1230MST 01 12 89

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