

D866

U E797 AAE ENG MES
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 13 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIETIES ACT 1966 ARE TO ENABLE POLITICAL PARTIES RESOLVE INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT REFERRING THEM TO THE COURTS.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS ARE ONLY CONFINED TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND RUNNING OF POLITICAL PARTIES, HE SAID.

THE AMENDMENTS SEEK TO BAR MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES FROM MAKING USE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS, HE SAID WHEN TABLING FOR SECOND READING A MOTION TO AMEND THE ACT.

THE AMENDMENTS WOULD ALSO FREE THE COURTS FROM MAKING POLITICAL DECISIONS, HE SAID.

+THE COURTS AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM WILL NO LONGER BE USED BY POLITICIANS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS,+ HE SAID.-- MORE
1757MST 13 12 89

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER SAID THE AMENDMENTS WOULD NOT PROTECT POLITICAL PARTIES FROM OTHER LAWS.

+IF POLITICAL PARTIES COMMIT CRIMES OR BREAK THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY, LEGAL ACTION CAN BE INSTITUTED AGAINST THEM,+ HE SAID.

LEGAL ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHO ABUSED POWER OR ARE INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION OR COMMIT CRIMINAL ACTS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS ARE AIMED AT CHECKING MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES FROM APPLYING THE JUDICIAL PROCESS ON PARTY MATTERS FOR PERSONAL OR FACTIONAL POLITICAL AIMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MEMBERS COULD STILL REPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES IF THEY HAVE PROOF OF SUCH WRONGDOINGS IN THE PARTY BY ANY PARTY MEMBERS.-- MORE
1801MST 13 12 89

U E800 AAE ENG MES
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT FORFEIT THE RIGHTS TO SCRUTINISE AND INVESTIGATE PARTY MEMBERS IF THERE ARE BASIS FOR ALLEGATIONS THAT THE COUNTRY'S LAWS HAVE BEEN BREACHED.

HE TOLD THE HOUSE THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIETIES' ACT WOULD ALSO HELP OTHER SECTORS.

AS THE COURTS NOW HAVE TO HEAR MORE THAN 500,000 CASES AND BECAUSE POLITICAL CASES AND INJUNCTIONS WERE NORMALLY GIVEN PRIORITY, HANDLING OF THE OTHER CASES WERE DISRUPTED AND DELAYED.

QUOTING THE ENGLISH PROVERB +JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MORE POLITICAL CASES WOULD MEAN OTHER CASES HAVE TO BE DELAYED AND INJUSTICE DONE.

HE SAID WITH THE AMENDMENTS, THE COURTS COULD CONCENTRATE TIME AND ENERGY TO HEAR OTHER CASES, REDUCE BACKLOG AND DO JUSTICE TO THOSE WHO HAD WAITED LONG TO HAVE THEIR CASES RESOLVED.-- MORE
1808MST 13 12 89

U E812 AAE ENG MES
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID LAWS WERE INTRODUCED FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND + WE OBEY LAWS BECAUSE WE ACCEPT THE RULE OF LAW+.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, EACH TIME A LAW WAS BEING DRAFTED, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WOULD LOOK FOR LOOPHOLES AND DO THINGS CONTRAVENING THE PURPOSE OF HAVING SUCH A LAW.

+SO OBVIOUS ARE SUCH MOVES THAT THE LAWS FALL SHORT OF THEIR OBJECTIVES AND INSTEAD CAUSE INJUSTICE TO THE PARTIES THAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT,+ HE SAID.

+AS WE CANNOT DISREGARD LAWS, THEREFORE LAWS THAT CAUSE INJUSTICE MUST BE REPEALED OR AMENDED.

+THE EXISTING SOCIETIES ACT HAS BECOME UNFAIR TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR MEMBERS ,+ HE SAID.-- MORE

1829MST 13 12 89

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U E813 AAE ENG MES
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE OWN CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS WHICH SET THE IDEALS OF THEIR STRUGGLE AND PARTY ADMINISTRATION.

+ IF ONE JOINS A PARTY,HE MUST ACCEPT ITS CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS.

+ ONE CANNOT DEMAND A PARTY TO AMEND PARTY RULES JUST TO ENABLE HIM TO BE A MEMBER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA, THERE ARE NO PROHIBITIONS AGAINST SETTING UP OF POLITICAL PARTIES UNLESS THEY ARE MEANT TO DESTROY THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OR TO CREATE CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY.

+THAT'S WHY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS BANNED IN THIS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID TOO MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD ALSO JEOPARDISE DEMOCRACY AS THEY COULD DESTABILISE THE COUNTRY AND DIVIDE THE PEOPLE LEAVING NO PARTY TO BE ABLE TO GOVERN.-- MORE

1831MST 13 12 89

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

UNDER THE COUNTRY'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, ANY PERSON IS FREE TO JOIN A POLITICAL PARTY OF HIS LIKING AND INCLINATION, HE SAID.

IF ONE ACCEPTS AND BELIEVES IN A PARTY'S IDEOLOGY, PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES, HE COULD JOIN AND SUPPORT IT OR OTHER WISE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ON JOINING A PARTY AND ACCEPTING ITS CONSTITUTION, OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY MUST BE REGARDED AS A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE PERSON AND THE PARTY, HE SAID.

THE AMENDMENTS SEEK TO INCORPORATE A NEW SECT 18B WHICH PROVIDES THAT + ANY ELECTION IN A POLITICAL PARTY SHALL NOT BE INVALID BY REASON OF NON- COMPLIANCE WITH ANY PROVISION IN THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION, RULES OR REGULATIONS OR THE PARTICIPATION IN SUCH ELECTION BY A DISQUALIFIED PERSON IF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WOULD HAVE REMAINED THE SAME HAD THE SAID PROVISION BEING COMPLIED WITH OR HAD THAT PERSON NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTION+.

HOWEVER, WHERE THE DISQUALIFIED PERSON IS ELECTED TO A POST IN THE PARTY, HIS DISQUALIFICATION IS TO BE GIVEN EFFECT TO AND A FRESH ELECTION IN RESPECT OF THAT POST BE CONDUCTED AS SOON AS PRACTICAL.

A NEW SECTION 18C PROVIDES THAT + ANY DECISION OF A POLITICAL PARTY ON THE INTERPRETATION OF ITS CONSTITUTION, RULES OR REGULATIONS OR RELATING TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE PARTY SHALL BE FINAL AND CONCLUSIVE+.

IT PROHIBITS ANY COURT PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE DECISION AND EXCLUDE THE COURT JURISDICTION TO DETERMINE ANY SUIT, APPLICATION, QUESTION OF PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE VALIDITY OF SUCH DECISION. -- BERNAMA