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PARLIAMENT-VIDEO  
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 8, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE SUSPECTS THE THEFT OF VIDEO TAPES FROM FORMER DEWAN RAKYAT DEPUTY SPEAKER D.P.VIJANDRAN'S RESIDENCE WAS PLANNED BY THE OPPOSITION FOR POLITICAL GAIN.

IT WAS PLANNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE THEFT WOULD BE RAISED IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT AS AN ISSUE FOR THE OPPOSITION TO CAPITALISE UPON FOR POLITICAL MILEAGE, HE ADDED.

THE OPPOSITION WAS CLEARLY BANKRUPT OF ISSUES, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN REPLYING TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THE THEFT OF VIDEO TAPES SAID TO BELONG TO ENCIK VIJANDRAN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S REPLIES TOOK ALMOST THE ENTIRE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION OF TODAY'S SITTING.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE THEFT WAS MOTIVATED BY JEALOUS INDIVIDUALS AND POLITICAL PARTIES BENT ON BLOWING-UP THE ISSUE TILL IT WENT UP TO PARLIAMENT-LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOSE WHO ALLEGED THAT ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE TAPES WAS A QUESTION OF MORAL, WERE THEMSELVES DEVOID OF HIGH MORALS. -- MORE

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WHILE REPLYING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY OPPOSITION MPS ESPECIALLY ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-TANJUNG) AND ENCIK KARPAL SINGH (DAP-JELUTONG)

AT ONE JUNCTURE, ENCIK KARPAL SINGH DEMANDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECISION TO DESTROY 11 VIDEO TAPES AND FOUR ENVELOPES OF 2,000 ALLEGEDLY PORNOGRAPHIC PICTURES SAID TO BELONG TO ENCIK VIJANDRAN.

RESPONDING TO THIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID JUST AS ENCIK KARPAL SINGH MADE ALLEGATIONS IN THE HOUSE WITHOUT PROOF, HE TOO COULD ACCUSE THE JELUTONG MP OF MASTERMINDING THE THEFT OF THE TAPES FROM ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S HOME.

HE ADDED: +I NOW WANT TO ACCUSE HIM IN THIS DEWAN ONLY, NOT OUTSIDE... THAT HE MASTERMINDED THE THEFT OF THE TAPES AS HE HAD OBTAINED INFORMATION FROM CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS THAT THERE WERE PORNOGRAPHIC TAPES IN THE STEEL SAFE IN ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S HOME. AND HE PLANNED TO FIX ENCIK VIJANDRAN.

+HE ASKED THE THIEVES TO BREAK THE SAFE TO OBTAIN THE TAPES AND SEEK MEANS SO THAT THE TAPES GET TO THE POLICE.

+ONCE THE TAPES REACH THE POLICE, NOTHING HAPPENS... HE WAITS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NO REASON TO SAY THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TAPES AS WHAT WAS IMPORTANT THEN WAS THAT THE TAPES WERE EXHIBITS OF A THEFT CASE. -- MORE  
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ENCIK KARPAL SINGH THEN ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER HOW HE COULD BE ACCUSED OF MASTERMINDING THE THEFT WHEN HE WAS THEN DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.

NONCHALANTLY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED THAT ENCIK KARPAL SINGH COULD HAVE USED +HENCHMEN+.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE WHOLE ISSUE WAS A POLITICAL SCHEME AIMED AT AFFECTING A PERSON'S STATUS.

+THEY WILL NOT BE INTERESTED IN BARING THE ISSUE IF THE PERSON INVOLVED HAS NO POLITICAL STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE AFFECTED PERSON'S POLITICAL ENEMIES WOULD GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EXPOSE THE CASE BY USING THE VIDEO TAPES SAID TO BE PORNOGRAPHIC.

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ENCIK LIM WHO ROSE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION, CLAIMED THAT FROM HIS REPLIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD SUBCONSCIOUSLY ADMITTED THAT ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S TAPES WERE PORNOGRAPHIC.

THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE COURT WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEY WERE OBSCENE OR NOT.

HE SAID OBSCENITY IS SUBJECTIVE AS THERE ARE THOSE WHO REGARD WEARING THE BIKINI AS OBSCENE WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHERS REGARD DRESSES WHICH EXPOSE THE KNEES AND FACE AS ALLURING.

+WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT WHEN A PARTY HAS VESTED INTERESTS, THIS WOULD INFLUENCE ITS ASSESSMENT+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED THAT IN THIS CASE IT WAS SATISFIED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL HAD ACTED SINCERELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCRETION EXPECTED OF AN ATTORNEY-GENERAL. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER DENIED HE HAD SEEN THE TAPES BEFORE THE DECISION TO DESTROY THEM WAS MADE.

HE SAID IN THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY IT WAS NORMAL THAT CERTAIN OFFICERS NEED NOT GIVE EXPLANATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

WHEN SPECIFIC MATTERS REQUIRED THE OFFICERS' EXPLANATION, THEN THEY WOULD BE CALLED UP TO DO SO, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE CASE OF THE VIDEO TAPES WAS ORIGINALLY A THEFT AND THEY WERE LATER DESTROYED AFTER IT WAS FOUND THAT THE CASE WAS WEAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS FULLY INFORMED OF THE MATTER ONLY AFTER IT WAS HOTLY DISCUSSED AND REQUIRED APPROPRIATE ATTENTION. -- BERNAMA

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