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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 8⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CONFIRMED THAT +CERTAIN PERSON+ AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE FEATURED IN THE VIDEO TAPES BELONGING TO FORMER DEWAN RAKYAT DEPUTY SPEAKER ENCIK D.P. VIJANDRAN.

PICTURES IN THE TAPES WERE TAKEN FOR THE PERSON'S OWN USE, HE SAID WHEN SIMULTANEOUSLY REPLYING TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THE TAPES IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE POLICE WHO INVESTIGATED A THEFT AT ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S RESIDENCE HAD INFORMED THE THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE CONTENT OF THE TAPES.

TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-TANJONG) WHETHER OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE FILMING OF THE VIDEO DID SO VOLUNTARY, HE SAID THIS IS FOR THE COURT TO DECIDE IF THERE ARE PARTIES INTENDING TO TAKE UP THE CASE.

HE SAID THERE ARE +PERVERTS+ INDULGING IN EROTIC ACTS FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARREST THEM FOR THE THINGS THEY DO.-- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID NO LAWS PROHIBIT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FROM DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH EXHIBITS IF A CASE IS NOT BROUGHT TO COURT.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT EXHIBITS WERE DESTROYED ESPECIALLY THOSE WHERE THERE WAS NO CASE TO PROCEED WITH.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VIDEO TAPES HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER THEIR CONTENTS WERE PORNOGRAPHIC OR OTHERWISE, HE SAID.

THEY WERE DESTROYED UPON PERMISSION BY THE OWNER HIMSELF, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS ALSO UP TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DISCRETION NOT TO PROSECUTE THOSE INVOLVED FOR THE CONTENT OF THE TAPES.

+BECAUSE AN ALLEGATION WAS MADE A YEAR AFTER THE THEFT THAT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S ACTION WAS LEGALLY WRONG, THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL, WHO IS THE NEXT HIGHEST RANKING LEGAL OFFICER AFTER THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, HIMSELF HAD INVESTIGATED THE MATTER+, HE SAID.-- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS REQUIRING THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO DISCUSS HIS DAILY DUTIES WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR ANY MINISTERS.

HE SAID THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ENCIK KARPAL SINGH (DAP-JELUTONG) ON THE MATTER WAS WHOLLY DONE IN THE MANNER PECULIAR TO THE MP THAT IS WITHOUT PROOF.

+IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED+, HE SAID.

ENCIK KARPAL SINGH HAD OFTEN CLAIMED HE COULD SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS BUT SO FAR THEY WERE ONLY BASED ON ALLEGEDLY OBSCENE PICTURES PURPORTEDLY SENT TO HIM THROUGH THE MAIL BY ANONYMOUS PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+THIS PERSON (ENCIK KARPAL SINGH) IS SO WELL-VERSED WITH THE LAW THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARREST HIM FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DENIED ENCIK LIM'S CLAIMS OF A GOVERNMENT COVER-UP BY COMING UP WITH CONTRADICTING STATEMENTS FOLLOWING DESTRUCTION OF THE TAPES.-- MORE
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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

AT THIS JUNCTURE, DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB ROSE TO EXPLAIN THAT HIS FIRST STATEMENT ON THE MATTER TO THE HOUSE WAS MERELY BASED ON MATTERS RAISED BY ENCIK KARPAL SINGH THEN.

+AT THAT TIME I ONLY SAID I WOULD INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET THE DETAILS WHILE IN THE DEWAN+, HE SAID.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CID DIRECTOR DATUK ZAMAN KHAN HAD MADE AN ERROR IN A PRESS STATEMENT ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE VIDEO TAPE CASE.

HE SAID DATUK ZAMAN HAD NEVER COMMITTED ANY ERROR IN THE INVESTIGATIONS AS THE PROBE WAS ALREADY COMPLETED BEFORE HE BECAME CID DIRECTOR.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER HAD USED HIS POWERS IN ACCEPTING ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY SPEAKER AND THAT IT WAS NOT A GOVERNMENT DECISION.

HE SAID THE QUESTION OF ENCIK VIJANDRAN'S DISMISSAL DID NOT ARISE AS THE GOVERNMENT OR OTHER PARTIES COULD ONLY TAKE ACTION AFTER THE COURT CASE IS OVER. -- BERNAMA
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