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RPTN REPLACING EARLIER ITEM R R R R

MAHATHIR-VIDEO

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 8⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- THE OPPOSITION WILL DEFINITELY MAKE USE OF THE VIDEO TAPE CASE INVOLVING FORMER DEWAN RAKWAT DEPUTY SPEAKER D.P.VIJANDRAN AS AN ELECTION ISSUE BUT BARISAN NASIONAL IS PREPARED FOR IT, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID, WITHOUT NAMING ANYONE, THAT THERE WERE PLANS TO THE EFFECT -- NOT SO MUCH AS TRYING TO DEGRADE ENCIK VIJANDRAN BUT RATHER TO RUN DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, BARISAN NASIONAL, MIC AND MAIKA HOLDINGS.

+THE AIM IS NOT JUST TO DEGRADE ENCIK VIJANDRAN BECAUSE HE ALONE WILL NOT MATTER... AT THE MOST HE JUST RESIGNS AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE, THAT'S ALL,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE DEWAN RAKYAT AFTER REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE DEWAN EARLIER.

HE SAID THE OPPOSITION PURPOSELY RAISED THE ISSUE IN THE DEWAN BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT BE FREE TO DO SO OUTSIDE.

HE ADDED THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT ALLOW THE ISSUE TO DIE DOWN BECAUSE THEY WANTED IT TO BE PROLONGED, POSSIBLE UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+I KNOW THIS WILL BE USED AS A POLITICAL ISSUE BECAUSE RIGHT FROM THE START I NOTICED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RAISING THE ISSUE IN THE DEWAN FOR POLITICAL REASONS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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+I THINK IF THEY MAKE IT AN ELECTION ISSUE WE CAN GIVE AN ANSWER,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER BN'S CHANCES WOULD BE UNDERMINED IF THE ISSUE WAS PLAYED UP IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MATTER IN THE DEWAN BUT OPPOSITION MEMBERS INTERRUPTED HIM.

+IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE OPPOSITION IS AFRAID OF GETTING AN EXPLANATION,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION SHOULD COME UP WITH PROOF TO BACK THEIR ALLEGATIONS THAT THE VIDEO TAPES WERE PONOGRAPHIC IN NATURE.

+ALTHOUGH THE TAPES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, I WAS TOLD THAT THERE ARE COPIES AVAILABLE IN VIDEO SHOPS -- GO AND LOOK FOR THEM AND BRING THEM TO COURT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE OPPOSITION COULD ALSO ASK POLICE OFFICERS AND OTHERS WHO CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD SEEN THE TAPES TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT.

+THEY ARE BEING IRRESPONSIBLE AND MAKING ACCUSATIONS IN THE DEWAN WITHOUT ANY PROOF,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO HIM, POLICE INVESTIGATION ON THE THEFT AT THE HOUSE OF ENCIK VIJANDRAN HAD BEEN COMPLETED BUT THE CASE WAS NOT BROUGHT TO COURT DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE. -- MORE

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+THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE TAPES WERE PONOGRAPHIC IN NATURE DID NOT ARISE BECAUSE IT WAS A CIVIL CASE AND UP TO THE COURT TO DECIDE,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE POLICE REPORT LODGED BY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JELUTONG, KARPAL SINGH, REGARDING PORNOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS HE RECEIVED IN THE MAIL, HE SAID POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING AND THE CASE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO COURT IF THERE WAS ENOUGH EVIDENCE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD BE USELESS TO HOLD A DEBATE ON THE SETTING UP OF +ELECTION WATCH+, A VOLUNTARY GROUP TO OVERSEE THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION WATCH WERE KNOWN TO BE ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISTS. -- BERNAMA
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