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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 15 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY ALLEGED THAT MANY NAMES OF VOTERS BELIEVED TO BE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLL BY CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FROM THE RULING PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THEIR ACTION HAD RESULTED IN MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE BEING DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS.

THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE WITH UMNO WHICH HAD ABOUT 2,000 NAMES OF ITS MEMBERS MISSING FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLL, HE SAID WHEN TABLING THE ELECTION (AMENDMENTS) ACT FOR SECOND READING IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

+WHAT IS STRANGE IS THAT THE ELECTORAL ROLL HAS THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE BUT SAID TO BE DEAD AND THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR A LONG TIME BEING RETAINED AS VOTERS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE PARTY BECAME AWARE OF THE MATTER FOLLOWING A DETAILED CHECK OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL IN SEVERAL CONSTITUENCIES. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HAD ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO UMNO TO CHECK THE ELECTORAL ROLL IN THE RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING NOW WAS SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS EXPERIENCED BY DATUK HAJI ASRI MUDA WHOSE NAME WENT MISSING FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLL AFTER BECOMING AN UMNO MEMBER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REJECTED A PROPOSAL BY THE DAP FOR INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS BE INVITED TO MONITOR AND OBSERVE THE PROCESS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

+BY DOING THIS, IT IS AS THOUGH WE ARE RIDICULING AND DOUBTING THE ELECTION COMMISSION WHICH HAD ALL ALONG BEEN PROVEN TO BE INDEPENDENT AND FAIR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT RULED BY A PARTY THAT REQUIRED INTERVENTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS FAIRNESS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE ELECTION WATCH, WHICH WAS SET UP RECENTLY, HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DAP BECAUSE ITS MEMBERS WERE MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT AND THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS WERE INCLINED TOWARDS THAT OF THE POLITICAL PARTY.

+AS AN EXAMPLE, CHANDRA MUZAFFAR HAD IN THE 1986 ELECTION OPENLY SUPPORTED THE DAP, AND FORMER LORD PRESIDENT TUN SUFFIAN HASHIM HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FAR AND WIDE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE FOR THE BETTER IF EVERYONE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE ELECTION COMMISSION WHICH HAD NEVER ISSUED STATEMENTS OR ACT IN ANY WAY THAT SHOWED IT WAS BIAS AGAINST ANY PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OPENNESS ALL THIS WHILE HAD ALLOWED EVERYONE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION FRANKLY, EVEN WHILE ABROAD.

HE SAID THAT THIS FREEDOM COVERED THE PRESS WHICH WAS NOT OBSTRUCTED IN THE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS INCLUDING THOSE CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+AS SUCH, THE ALLEGATION THAT THERE IS NO PRESS FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY WAS FALSE. WE ARE UNLIKE THE SEMANGAT 46 PARTY WHICH IS PREPARED TO BURN NEWSPAPERS BECAUSE OF THE REPORTS PUBLISHED ABOUT THE PARTY,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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