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MAHATHIR-BANKRUPT
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 10/ (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO STUDY A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A SPECIAL COURT TO HANDLE BANKRUPTCY CASES AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DECLARE THEMSELVES BANKRUPT TO AVOID PAYING DEBTS BUT LIVE IN LUXURY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A COURT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE WITHOUT STEPPING UP THE CAPABILITY OF THE COURTS TO HANDLE CASES WHICH WERE BEING POSTPONED.

THE EXISTING COURTS COULD HANDLE THE BANKRUPTCY CASES BUT THEY WERE BURDENED WITH TOO MANY CASES WHICH WERE POSTPONED, HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS COMMENTING ON A PROPOSAL BY BANK NEGARA GOVERNOR TAN SRI JAFFAR HUSSEIN LAST MONTH FOR THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL COURT TO HANDLE BANKRUPTCY CASES TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO WERE DECLARED BANKRUPT BUT STILL LED A LIFE OF LUXURY PAID UP THEIR DEBTS.

HE SAID THE LAWS ON BANKRUPTCY SHOULD NOT BE EXPLOITED AS THEY WERE TO HELP CREDITORS RECOVER THEIR MONEY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AGREED NOT ONLY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COURTS BUT ALSO THE NUMBER OF COURT STAFF, PROSECUTORS AND INVESTIGATORS TO PREPARE PAPERS FOR TRIAL. -- BERNAMA
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