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PARLIAMENT-ACTING  
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DA MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS NOTHING PECULIAR ABOUT HIM NOT APPOINTING AN ACTING PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE GOES ABROAD.

+IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUESTION OF (ME) HAVING NO CONFIDENCE IN (MY) SUBORDINATE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF AN ACTING PRIME MINISTER WAS APPOINTED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE COUNTRY WAS HAVING TWO PRIME MINISTERS AT THE SAME TIME.

+ITS QUITE AWKWARD... ONE WILL BE IN THE COUNTRY AND THE OTHER IS ABROAD ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID IN THE EVENT OF A MINISTER GOING AN OFFICIAL VISIT ABROAD OR IS UNABLE TO GO TO WORK DUE TO HEALTH REASON, THE PRESENT PRACTICE IS FOR ANOTHER MINISTER TO CARRY OUT HIS OR HER DUTIES.-- MORE

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SUCH AN APPOINTMENT WILL BE GAZETTED TO GIVE THE ACTING MINISTER STATUTORY POWERS SUCH AS IN SIGNING AGREEMENTS, HE SAID.

THE SAME PRACTICE IS APPLIED WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER GOES OUT OF THE COUNTRY OR IS INDISPOSED AND IN THIS CASE, HIS DUTIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD HAJI NIK ABDULLAH ARSHAD (PAS-PENKALAN CHEPA) THAT THERE WAS NO DISTRUST AMONG BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTIES.

+BECAUSE OF THIS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, WAS NO NEED FOR AN ACTING PRIME MINISTER TO BE APPOINTED,+ HE SAID.

THE SAME, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE SAID OF PAS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED AND CITED AS EXAMPLE THE BREAKAWAY BY SEVERAL MEMBERS TO FORM THE AL-ISLAH.

+WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING IS NOT UNUSUAL LIKE THE PACT BETWEEN PAS AND THE DAP... EVEN THOUGH PAS HAD SAID BY COOPERATING WITH INFIDELS WOULD MAKE ONE AN INFIDEL TOO BUT NOW THEY ARE WORKING TOGETHER.

+THEY MAY DENY HAVING SUCH A PACT BEFORE ME, BUT BEHIND MY BACK, WHO KNOWS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.-- BERNAMA

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