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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 21⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL INVITE A GROUP OF OBSERVERS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY. HE TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT HE HAD INFORMED COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL OF THE IDEA DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON ON MAY 12.

DURING THE MEETING, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CALLED ON THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT TO ARRANGE FOR THE GROUP. MALAYSIA WILL FOOT THE EXPENSES FOR BRINGING IN THE OBSERVERS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE DOES NOT MEAN WE DO NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTION BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION WHICH HAS HANDLED PREVIOUS ELECTIONS INDEPENDENTLY, FAIRLY AND HONESTLY,

+WE SUSPECT CERTAIN GROUPS ARE ALREADY PLOTTING TO SMEAR THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE NEXT ELECTION.+

DATUK. SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE GROUPS WERE PREPARED WITH VARIOUS LIES AND ACCUSATIONS WHICH WOULD BE SPREAD BY THEIR STOOGES.

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+THEREFORE, IT IS VITAL THAT WE GET OUTSIDE PEOPLE WITH NO INTEREST TO WITNESS AND OBSERVE OUR ELECTION,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM OPPOSITION LEADER, ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-TANJUNG).

ENCIK LIM ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER IF MALAYSIA WOULD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES BY INVITING OBSERVERS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SIR SHRIDATH HAD AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR THE GROUP, ON CONDITION THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT BORE ALL THE EXPENSES.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW, IS TO GET A DECLARATION FROM POLITICAL PARTIES IN MALAYSIA, PARTICULARLY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, IF THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE OBSERVERS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHILE THEY THEMSELVES (THE OPPOSITION) HAVE ALREADY FORMED A GROUP OF OBSERVERS COMPRISING THEIR OWN PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

IN A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, ENCIK LIM VOICED THE PARTY'S CONSENT TO THE IDEA AND ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION? WHATEVER IT MAY BE,

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF ALL PARTIES WERE WILLING! THEN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTACT THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS. -- MORE
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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO DREW THE DEWAN RAKYAT'S ATTENTION TO MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, SAYING THAT OWING TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER HITCHES, SUCH A GROUP HAD YET TO BE FORMED.

THE PROPOSAL WAS MOOTED AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) HERE IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S CONSENT TO THE PRESENCE OF AN OBSERVER GROUP WOULD MAKE IT THE FIRST COUNTRY TO SEEK SUCH SERVICES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTION, AND POSSIBLY SET A TREND FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT EFFORTS BY OPPOSITION PARTIES TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE BY-ELECTIONS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WHICH SAW SIGNS OF UNDEMOCRATIC ACTIONS BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

HE ADDED: +THERE WERE THREATS MADE AND THERE WERE ELEMENTS OF INSTIGATION AND BRIBERY TO MAKE THE RULING PARTY LOSE, HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN PROOF OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+IN THE PANTAI MERDEKA BY-ELECTION, A CHINESE WOMAN WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DRAGGED BY PAS ELECTION WORKERS NEAR THE POLLING STATION. THIS SCARED THE OTHER CHINESE WOMEN AND THEY REFUSED TO COME OUT AND VOTE FOR FEAR OF BEING HASSLED.+

ACCORDING TO HIM, +SAMSENG+ WERE ALSO BROUGHT IN TO CAST FEAR AMONG THE BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTION WORKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT KICK UP A FUSS ABOUT A LOCAL GROUP OF OBSERVERS, PARTICULARLY IF THE GROUP WAS MADE UP OF THE OPPOSITION, LIKE ELECTION WATCH.

THE DAP'S ATTITUDE WAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED BY ITS ANTICS IN THE PULAU PINANG STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SITTINGS IN THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS COMPRISING SCHOOLCHILDREN WHO HAD COME TO SEE THE WHEELS OF DEMOCRACY AT WORK, HE ADDED, IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE BOOK-THROWING INCIDENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE TABLING OF THE MOTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER TUM HUSSEIN ONN, ENCIK LIM TURNED THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE PARTY'S INTEREST AND USED HARSH WORDS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

ENCIK LIM SHOWED A BAD EXAMPLE TO OBSERVERS PRESENT IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT ON THAT DAY, INCLUDING SCHOOLCHILDREN, HE SAID. -- MORE

R E 6 2 6 A A E
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE PRESENCE OF AN FOREIGN OBSERVER MISSION AT THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD HALT THE OPPOSITION'S NEGATIVE WAYS AND PRESERVE DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK LIM, HE SAID THE OPPOSITION PARTIES SHOULD NOT FEAR THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION.

+THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS ACCEPTS THE DECISION OF THE PEOPLE, UNLIKE THE DAP AND ITS NEW PARTNERS, WHO ARE WILLING TO GO TO COURT TO DENY THE PEOPLE'S DECISION!+ HE SAID AMIDST THUMPS OF APPROVAL BY BACKBENCHERS.

HE SAID DISTURBANCES, LIKE THE MAY 13 RIOTS IN 1969, WOULD NOT RECUR BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS SHOWN A GOOD EXAMPLE DURING ELECTIONS.

HE ADDED THAT A STUDY OF THE 1969 RIOTS SHOWED THAT IT WAS THE OPPOSITION WHICH SPARKED OFF THE INCIDENT BY CLAIMING THEY HAD WON, EVEN BEFORE THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED, AND AN-ALLIANCE ELECTION WORKER WAS KILLED IN PULAU PINANG.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE DID NOT STEM FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1933MST 21 06 90

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DAP SHOULD REFLECT ON THE ATTITUDE OF ITS +NEW PARTNER+ WHICH REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE OUTCOME OF THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1907 AND ALSO ADOPTED POLITICS OF BRIBERY AND THREATS IN THE PANTAI MERDEKA AND AMPANG JAYA BY-ELECTIONS.

+THEY INCLUDE THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MAY 13 RIOTS+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO ENCIK KARPAL SINGH (DAP-JELUTONG) WHO ASKED IF THE PRIME MINISTER WAS AWARE OF POLICE INTERVENTION IN THE PULAU PINANG STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SITTING RECENTLY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE INCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE +THERE WERE ASSEMBLYMEN WHO FLOUTED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXTENT OF FLINGING BOOKS+:

HE ADDED THAT THE STATE'SPEAKER DID NOT NEED TO SEEK POLICE HELP IF ALL THE MEMBERS ABIDED BY HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

POLICE WERE CALLED IN TO ESCORT ENCIK KARPAL SINGH, WHO IS STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR GELUGOR, AND ENCIK LIM, THE STATE ASSEMBLYMEN FOR KAMPUNG 'KOLAM, OUT OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY FOR IGNORING THE SPEAKER'S ORDERS THAT THEY WERE BEING SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.

THE PRIME MINISTER QUIPPED THAT HE TOO ABIDED BY ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS, SAYING: +IF SOMEONE STANDS, I SIT AND WHEN HE SITS, I STAND.. IT'S SIMPLE.+

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1954MST 21 06 90

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THERE WERE TIMES WHEN POLICE HELP WAS NECESSARY, +FOR INSTANCE, IF A MEMBER WHIPS OUT A KNIFE AND THERE IS A STABBING IN THE ASSEMBLY, SURELY THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED.+ '

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT AS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, ENCIK KARPAL SINGH WAS SURELY FAMILIAR WITH THE LAWS TO WHICH HE ALSO ABIDED AS A DOCTOR.

TO THIS, ENCIK LIM INTERJECTED SAYING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS A +DOCTOR OF LAWS+ TO WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY TITLES BESTOWED ON HIM.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD HAJI BUJANG ULIS (PERMAS-SIMUNJAN) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ESTIMATED THE EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN BRINGING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP.

+MAYBE XT COULD COME UP TO MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD BUT WE WILL DEFINITELY BEAR IT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THE ROLE OF THIS GROUP IS MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN COMPARED WITH ELECTION WATCH WHICH CLEARLY SIDES THE OPPOSITION PARTY,+ HE SAID.

THE ONLY PROBLEM WOULD BE IF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES REJECT THE PRESENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP, HE POINTED OUT. --