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HAHATHIR - GOVERNMENT  
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BUTTERWORTH, JUNE. 24 (BERNAMA) -- **DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD** SAID TODAY CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE NO RIGHT TO QUESTION POLICIES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

THE PRIME **MINISTER**, WHO ARRIVED HERE TODAY FOR A ONE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PULAU **PINANG**, SAID GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND **POLITICIANS** SHOULD ALWAYS BE AWARE OF THE **+DIVIDING LINE+** IN THEIR DUTIES AND EFFORTS TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY.

**+GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, SHOULD** NOT QUESTION GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND **POLICIES**, WHETHER THEY ARE GOOD OR **BAD**, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WILL DETERMINE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION EVERY FIVE YEARS DURING THE GENERAL **ELECTION**,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT SEKOLAH **MEJENGGAH** DATUK ONN **HERE**, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT **SOMETIMES**, THERE WERE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WITH OPPOSING POLITICAL BELIEFS TRYING TO **+SABOTAGE+** NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

SUCH ACTION WOULD ONLY **HAMPER** THE SMOOTH GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM AND PREVENT THE PEOPLE FROM **BENEFITING** FROM ITS **EFFECTS**, HE SAID, -- MORE

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**DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR** SAID THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE COUNTRY SINCE INDEPENDENCE WAS DUE TO THE GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT **OFFICERS**, WHO ADMINISTERED THE **COUNTRY**, AND **POLITICIANS**, WHO DETERMINED THE POLICIES.

MORE THAN 500 GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ATTENDED THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE EDUCATION MINISTER ENCIK **ANWAR IBRAHIM**, DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER SENATOR MOHAHED **FARID** ARIFFIN AND STATE SECRETARY DATUK KAMARUZAHAN **SHARIFF**.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ACTION BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN A PARTICULAR STATE WHICH THREATENED AND QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WHO WANTED TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES.

HE REMINDED THE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS NOT TO **ENTERTAIN** SUCH GROUPS WHICH WERE NOT LINKED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM.

**+THESE PEOPLE**, WHO DO NOT HOLD ANY POSTS BUT CLAIM THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE **PEOPLE**, SUMMONED AND THREATENED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND THREATENED **THEM**,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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+GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, IN THEIR FEAR, ARE FORCED TO BOW TO THE DIRECTIVES OF THESE PEOPLE SO MUCH SO THEY EVEN REJECT DIRECTIVES BY THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE OFFICERS WERE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM TO LISTEN TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE OF THE STORY.

+IF THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE...THEN IT IS A DIFFERENT STORY...BUT EVEN BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN ELECTED! THEY ARE SHOWING THEIR DICTATORIAL TENDENCY?+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALL GROUPS INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION SHOULD APPRECIATE THE +DIVIDING LINE+ IN THE DUTIES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS SO THAT THERE WAS NO DISRUPTION IN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR PEOPLE TO GIVE A STRONG MANDATE TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO STEER THE COUNTRY TOWARDS GREATER PROGRESS.

A GOVERNMENT WITH A STRONG MANDATE NEED NOT FEAR MAKING DECISIONS OR CHARTING NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION POLICIES EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE NOT TO THE LIKING OF A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN HAD LUNCH WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

EARLIER, HE ARRIVED IN A SPECIAL AIRCRAFT AT THE MATA KUCHING AIR BASE AT ABOUT 12.15PM TOGETHER WITH DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI.

HE WAS RECEIVED BY ACTING CHIEF MINISTER DATUK KHOO KAY POR, ENCIK ANWAR AND SENATOR MOHAMED FARID. -- BERNAMA

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