

MAHATHIR-OBSERVERS
BM

KUALA LINGGI, JULY 10. (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING FOREIGNERS TO OBSERVE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BECAUSE IT SUSPECTS THE OPPOSITION WILL ATTEMPT TO CREATE TROUBLE THEN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MOVE TO BRING IN THE OBSERVERS WAS TO ENABLE OUTSIDERS TO SEE HOW THE OPPOSITION PARTIES BEHAVED AND NOT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CHEAT IN THE ELECTION.

+IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, THEY (THE OPPOSITION PARTIES) WOULD WANT TO REJECT THE OBSERVERS BUT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE AN EXCUSE AND FIND THEMSELVES CORNERED THEY ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT THEM,+ HE SAID AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE KUALA LINGGI BRIDGE PROJECT HERE.

THE 360-METRE BRIDGE, ACROSS THE MOUTH OF THE SUNGAI LINGGI, LINKING KUALA LINGGI IN MELAKA AND TANJUNG AGAS IN NEGERI SEMBILAN, WILL BE BUILT AT A COST OF \$20 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ELECTION OBSERVER GROUP HEADED BY A FORMER JUDGE WAS NOT IMPARTIAL BECAUSE THE MEMBERS WERE ONE-SIDED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAD BELITTLED THE GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS. THE GROUP REFERRED TO IS THE ELECTION WATCH LED BY A FORMER LORD PRESIDENT, TUN MOHAMED SUFFIAN HASHIM. -- MORE
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HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO USURP POWER UNLAWFULLY THROUGH AN ELECTION. THIS HAD BEEN PROVEN IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS WHICH WERE CONDUCTED WITH DISCIPLINE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, HE SAID.

ANYONE COULD CONTEST IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE HAD BEEN CASES WHEN GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES HAD ALSO LOST.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE HAD THE RIGHT TO ELECT OPPOSITION CANDIDATES AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT DEFEAT WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO ARRESTING THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WHO WON.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, AN OPPOSITION PARTY HAD BEEN IN POWER IN KELANTAN, AND IN SABAH THE BERJAYA PARTY LOST TO PARTI BERSATU SABAH WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CHALLENGED THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR ALLEGATIONS THAT PRESS FREEDOM DID NOT EXIST IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
1626MST 10 07 90

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+THEY SAY THERE IS NO PRESS FREEDOM BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALL ALONG NOT REPORTED THEIR FALSITIES. OUR PRESS IS FREE... THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPORT ON ANYTHING,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT MANY NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS NOT IN FAVOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT THEY CONTINUED TO OPERATE.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST THOSE NEWSPAPERS BECAUSE OF THEIR UNFAVOURABLE REPORTS BUT IT WOULD DO SO ONLY IF THEY PROJECTED ELEMENTS OF PORNOGRAPHY OR INCITED THE PEOPLE TO TURN AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO REMAIN UNITED AS ONE MALAYSIAN RACE SO THAT THEY CAN BE LOOKED UPON WITH RESPECT BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

+A DISUNITED 17 MILLION PEOPLE CANNOT GAIN ANYTHING BUT A UNITED 17 MILLION CAN MAKE THE WORLD TREMBLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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NEGERI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI MOHAMED ISA ABDUL SAMAD AND MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK WERE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION.

LATER, ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE IN KAMPUNG PANTAI PERMATANG NEAR HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY TO ENABLE IT ACHIEVE THE STATUS OF JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH THE PRESENT GENERATION MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE RESULTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT, THE FIRST STEP MUST BE TAKEN NOW.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CRITICISED CERTAIN LEADERS OF THE MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC) WHO HE SAID LIVED ON SALARIES PAID BY WORKERS BUT THE IGNORED THE PLIGHT OF WORKERS.

HE CHALLENGED CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE IF THEY COULD FIND A GOVERNMENT IN ANY DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH GAVE AID TO THE PEOPLE LIKE WHAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT DID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN JOINED A +GOTONG-ROYONG+ TO REPAIR TWO HOUSES OF VILLAGERS. HE ALSO GAVE AWAY BICYCLES, SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND OUTBOARD MOTORS. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-OBSERVERS 5 KUALA LINGGI.

AT KAMPUNG PANTAI PERMATANG, TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL RAHIM SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DEVELOP BEACHES AND AREAS ALONG RIVERS IN THE STATE TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS.

THIS WOULD BRING DIRECT BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL RAHIM SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD MAINTAIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH GAVE PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT. --
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