

D332

U E842 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION
BM

MUAR, JULY 21 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT REGRETS THAT THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER TO THE COUNTRY'S GENERAL ELECTION HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE ELECTION WATCH, WHICH IS CLEARLY BIASED, AND ITS ROLE THEREFORE IS NOW QUESTIONABLE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO BE CAREFUL BECAUSE THE COMMONWEALTH HAD BEEN +INFLUENCED+ WHEN IT SHOULD BE IMPARTIAL AS AN INTERMEDIARY.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO REVIEW ITS DECISION TO INVITE THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER, HE SAID AT A PUBLIC RALLY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD BRING UP THE MATTER IN THE NEXT CABINET MEETING. .

SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN LATER, HE SAID THE ELECTION WATCH HAD WRITTEN TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL CHIEF EMEKA ANYAOKUK AND THE COMMONWEALTH SUBSEQUENTLY SENT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNTRY LAST TUESDAY.

HE SAID THE IRONY WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD YET TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO THE COMMONWEALTH. +I MERELY WROTE TO THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL THEN, SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL, INFORMING HIM OF THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER AND TELLING HIM THAT I HAVE FIRST TO SEEK THE APPROVAL OF OPPOSITION PARTIES. AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO THE PLAN, INCLUDING DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG WITH CERTAIN GUIDELINES.+ -- MORE.

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D338

U E845 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 2 MUAR

SUDDENLY THE COMMONWEALTH DELEGATION WAS IN THE COUNTRY AND IMMEDIATELY MET THE ELECTION WATCH, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO AVOID AS IT COULD BE ONE-SIDED.

+I AM WORRIED THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE ELECTION WATCH BECAUSE THEY CAME BEFORE WE EVEN CALLED THEM. THE GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO OFFICIALLY AGREE TO INVITE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER HERE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NOT NEED FOR THE SECRETARIAT DELEGATION TO MEET THE OPPOSITION TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS BECAUSE IT WAS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THEIR DUTIES.

THEIR TASK IS TO ENSURE THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION IS CARRIED OUT IN A FAIR, CLEAN AND HONEST MANNER, HE SAID.

TO A QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS, SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS BECAUSE ELECTIONS BEFORE THIS HAD BEEN FAIR.

HE SAID WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT THE ELECTION WATCH HAD, THROUGH THEIR ACTION, WANTED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF DISORDER SO THAT THEY COULD DECLARE THE ELECTION VOID WHEN THEY LOST.-- MORE.

2147MST 21 07 90

D349

U E860 AAE
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 3 MUAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, IN HIS SPEECH, ALSO SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) GOVERNMENT NEEDED MORE THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED DEVELOPMENT.

BUT THE BN GOVERNMENT HAD NO DESIRE TO WIN ALL SEATS BECAUSE THEN THERE WOULD BE NO ONE TO KEEP IT IN CHECK, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE BN HAD ALSO PROVEN TO THE PEOPLE THAT THERE WERE PLACES FOR ALL RACES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK AND MIC PRESIDENT DATUK SERI S.SAMY VELLU ALSO SPOKE AT THE RALLY. -- BERNAMA.

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