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MAHATHIR-DAP

(EMBARGO: 11PM TODAY, AUG 22)

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 22 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (DAP) AND THE CHINESE EDUCATIONISTS OPTED OUT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (NECC) BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO FORMULA FOR THE POST-1990 ECONOMIC POLICY THAT CAN DRAW LESS OR NO CRITICISM FROM THE PUBLIC, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

+THESE PEOPLE ARE ONLY GOOD AT CRITICISING BUT ARE QUITE INCAPABLE OF ANYTHING POSITIVE OR CONSTRUCTIVE,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER OF THE HARVARD CLUB OF MALAYSIA HERE. THE TOPIC OF HIS ADDRESS WAS +POST 1990-ECONOMIC POLICY OF MALAYSIA.+

TRACING THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) WHICH EXPIRES THIS YEAR, HE SAID THAT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THERE WAS A PRICE TO BE PAID FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT THAT WAS NEITHER SOCIALISM AT ONE END OR CAPITALISM ON THE OTHER.

+WE THINK THAT WE PAY A LOWER PRICE WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENGINEERING OF THE NEP AGAINST A VERY MUCH HIGHER PRICE IF WE IGNORE RACIAL SENSITIVITIES AND GO EXCLUSIVELY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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+STILL, THE GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY OF WISDOM. AND SO, IN ORDER TO FORMULATE THE ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE NATION AFTER 1990 THE GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT AN EQUAL NUMBER OF CRITICS AND SUPPORTERS TOGETHER UNDER THE NECC SO THAT THEY CAN FORMULATE BY CONSENSUS THE POST-1990 POLICY.

+CONSENSUS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID BEING UNFAIR TO ANY PARTICULAR GROUP. OTHERWISE, THE GOVERNMENT CAN FORMULATE THE POLICY BY ITSELF, FOR THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT,+ HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE DAP AND THE CHINESE EDUCATIONISTS HAD CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT-FORMULATED NEP, HE SAID THEIR OPTING OUT OF THE NECC MEANT THAT THEY HAD NO FORMULA WHICH COULD DRAW LESS OR NO CRITICISM FROM THE PUBLIC.

+WHILE THEY CONDEMN THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT LISTENING TO THEIR VIEWS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF OTHERS.

+MUCH LESS ARE THEY WILLING TO ADJUST THEIR DEMANDS IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS TO MAKE THEIR DEMANDS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-DAP 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE DAP AND THE CHINESE EDUCATIONISTS SEEMED TO CLAIM THAT THEY HAD A MONOPOLY OF WISDOM.

+BY OPTING OUT THEY FEEL THEY CAN BE FREE TO CRITICISE AND CONDEMN WHATEVER THE NECC DECIDES AND, OF COURSE, WHATEVER THE GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY FORMULATE.

+THEY REGARD THEIR OWN NARROW COMMUNAL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN NATIONAL INTEREST,+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED. -- %ERNAMA

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