

U E991 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PRICES  
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(P)  
KLANG, SEPT 1 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY WARNED TRADERS NOT TO RAISE THE PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS FOLLOWING TODAY'S INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES.

HE SAID THE FUEL PRICES HAD ONLY BEEN RAISED TO THE LEVEL THEY HAD BEEN BEFORE AUG 1 WHEN THE PRICES WERE BROUGHT DOWN BY A SIMILAR AMOUNT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TRADERS DID NOT HAVE ANY REASON TO RAISE PRICES OF THEIR GOODS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT LOWERED THEIR PRICES WHEN FUEL PRICES DROPPED LAST MONTH.

+THESE ARE NOT NEW PRICES BUT OLD PRICES,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AT DEWAN HAMZAH HERE.

THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY HAD ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF PETROL, DIESEL AND KEROSENE EFFECTIVE TODAY.

ON THE ANNOUNCED STUDY OF THE IMPLICATION OF THE GULF CRISIS ON THE PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS, HE SAID A REPORT WOULD BE PRESENTED AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF THE CABINET.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SO FAR GATHERED INFORMATION ON THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF CONSUMER GOODS WHOSE PRICES WERE TAGGED TO OIL PRICES. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-PRICES 2 KLANG

ASKED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT LIFTING BAN ON PUBLIC RALLIES IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE POLICE WERE STUDYING THE MATTER.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DECIDE ON IT ONCE IT HAD ALL THE INFORMATION, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE LAWS PROHIBITING PUBLIC RALLIES, THEY WERE NOT ADHERED TO BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE DAP, PAS AND SEMANGAT 46 HAD HELD A PUBLIC RALLY IN PULAU PINANG, ATTENDED BY SOME 20,000 PEOPLE.

THE POLICE, HOWEVER, DID NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM ALTHOUGH THEIR ACTION WAS CLEARLY AGAINST THE LAW, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN PAS AND DAP WHICH ACCORDING TO HIM WAS GETTING INCREASINGLY CLOSER INSPITE OF THEIR CONFLICTING PRINCIPLES.

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MAHATHIR-PRICES 3 KLANG

HE SAID PAS WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE DAP AS THOUGH REALISING IT COULD NOT REALISE ITS AMBITION OF WANTING TO SET UP AN ISLAMIC STATE.

+IN THE PAST, WE WOULD BE SHOCKED TO HEAR OF PAS FOLLOWING THE DAP. BUT NOW AS PAS HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE POLICY OF DAP, IT'S NO LONGER UNUSUAL, NOR SURPRISING,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON PAS EMULATING THE DAP BY OPTING OUT OF THE EDUCATION ACT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

LATER, WHEN ADDRESSING A GATHERING AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH TENGKU IDRIS SHAH IN KAPAR, ABOUT 20KM FROM HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PAS LEADERS HAD BETRAYED THEIR SUPPORTERS WHO ALL THESE WHILE HAD FULLY BELIEVED IN THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE OF SETTING UP AN ISLAMIC STATE.

A PAS LEADER HAD EVEN CONFESSED THAT THE PARTY COULD NOT POSSIBLY SET UP AN ISLAMIC STATE WITHOUT COOPERATING WITH THE DAP, HE SAID.

BUT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DAP WOULD NEVER ALLOW THIS.  
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MAHATHIR-PRICES 4 KLANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID PAS AND DAP HAD BEEN USED BY SEMANGAT 46 LEADER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WHO WAS OUT TO GAIN INFLUENCE AS THE PARTY ACTUALLY DID NOT HAVE LARGE SUPPORTERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER PAS' ACTION RECENTLY, ACCUSING 12 UNMARRIED EMPLOYEES OF PELANGI BEACH RESORT IN LANGKAWI TO BE PREGNANT.

WHILE DENYING THIS, HE SAID HE REGRETTED THAT SUCH ACCUSATION COULD HAVE COME FROM A PARTY PURPORTEDLY COMMITTED TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF ISLAM.

HE ALSO HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF FISHING VOTES WHEN IT RECENTLY INCREASED PADI SUBSIDY TO 50 PER CENT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS HAD THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE AT HEART AND WOULD ASSIST WHEN THE PEOPLE NEEDED ITS ASSISTANCE. --  
MORE.

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MAHATHIR-PRICES 5 KLANG

HE ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THEY COULD ENJOY A LIFE OF PEACE AND HARMONY INSPITE OF THEIR COUNTRY HAVING MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION.

+IF WE WERE TO ALLOW OUTSIDERS TO SETTLE IN MALAYSIA, THEY WILL FLOCK INTO THE COUNTRY IN NO TIME BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEY CAN LEAD A COMFORTABLE LIFE HERE,+ HE ADDED.

HE ASKED IF FOREIGNERS WERE THAT EAGER TO SETTLE IN MALAYSIA, WHY WERE THERE STILL MALAYSIANS WHO WERE UNCONTENDED WITH WHAT THEY HAD.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE GATHERING WERE SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD TAIB, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK, MCA PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK AND MIC PRESIDENT DATUK SERI S.SAMY VELLU.

PRESENT WERE UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT AND SNAP PRESIDENT DATUK AMAR JAMES WONG FROM SARAWAK. -- BERNAMA.  
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