

D312

R E793 AAE
MAHATHIR - CASTE
BM

CHANGLUN, SEPT 21⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE IS NO CASTE SYSTEM IN THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA.

THE COUNTRY WAS FREE FROM SUCH PRACTICE AND THE POSITION OF ALL MALAYSIAN INDIANS WAS THE SAME, HE ADDED.

+IN MALAYSIA, NO MATTER HOW LOW A PERSON'S POSITION MAY BE, WHETHER HE IS A PARIAH OR BRAHMIN, THEY HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD ANY POST PROVIDED THE PERSON HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS, + HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING A MEET THE PEOPLE SESSION AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH CHANGLUN HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CLAIM BY ALL-MALAYSIAN INDIAN PROGRESSIVE FRONT (IPF) LEADER M.G.PANDITHAN THAT THERE WAS A CASTE SYSTEM IN THE MIC WAS NOT TRUE.

THE FORMER MIC VICE-PRESIDENT WAS ANGRY WITH THE PARTY AND CLAIMED THAT THE MIC HAD NO PLACE FOR PEOPLE OF LOW CASTE, HE ADDED.
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D313

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MAHATHIR - CASTE 2 CHANGLUN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM WITHIN MIC IT SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AND CASTE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN EXCUSE TO GET SOMETHING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT PANDITHAN MADE THE CASTE CLAIMS AFTER FAILING TO GAIN SOME POSITION IN MIC.

HE ALSO REMINDED CERTAIN GROUPS IN MALAYSIA NOT TO RESORT TO THE PRACTICE OF MAKING DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT A PERSON'S DESCENT.

URGING MALAYSIANS OF THAI ORIGIN TO SUPPORT BARISAN NASIONAL, HE SAID THEY ENJOYED PRIVILEGES SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN TO MALAYS SUCH AS INVESTING IN AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL (ASN).

MALAYSIAN PORTUGUESE ALSO HAD SUCH PRIVILEGES, HE ADDED. --
BERNAMA

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