

MAHATHIR-TAPE R'R'R
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH SHOULD LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE ON THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ALLEGED TAPE-RECORDED SPEECH OF THE SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT IN WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD DESTROY PAS IF THE OPPOSITION WINS THE OCT 21 GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TENGKU RAZALEIGH WANTED TO SHUT HIS MOUTH AND WAS NOT BEING BRAVE ENOUGH BY TAKING HIM TO COURT OVER HIS DISCLOSURE ABOUT THE TAPE-RECORDED SPEECH.

+IF WE ARE BRAVE WE SHOULD LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE THE TRUTH OR OTHERWISE. NOW HE IS ASKING THE COURT TO SHUT MY MOUTH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, WAS REPLYING TO REPORTERS WHO RAISED THE MATTER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

HE SAID BRINGING THE MATTER TO COURT WAS TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S STRATEGY IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION.

+WE TOO CAN DO SO MANY THINGS ... PROSECUTE OPPOSITION LEADERS BUT WE DON'T DO IT BECAUSE WE WANT THE PEOPLE TO BE THE JUDGE,+ HE SAID.-- MORE

1650MST 06 10 90

D432

U E110 AAE
MAHATHIR-TAPE 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R

ASKED WHETHER COPIES OF THE TAPE WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD FIRST WAIT FOR TENGKU RAZALEIGH TO BRING THE MATTER TO COURT BECAUSE TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAD INDICATED SO.

MEANWHILE, TENGKU RAZALEIGH TODAY FILED A LIBEL SUIT AGAINST DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND MAINTAINED THAT HE HAD NEVER STATED THAT HE WOULD WIPE OUT PAS AND DAP IF AN +ALTERNATIVE FRONT+ COMES TO POWER.

IN A SPEECH AT CHANGLUN IN KEDAH RECENTLY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DISCLOSED THAT TENGKU RAZALEIGH WANTED TO ELIMINATE PAS IF THE OPPOSITION WINS THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.

ON THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALLOW THE GROUP'S REPORT ON THE COUNTRY'S GENERAL ELECTION BE MADE PUBLIC IF IT RECEIVES THE REPORT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL CHIEF AMEKA ANYOUKU.

HE SAID THE OBSERVERS MUST SUBMIT A REPORT TO CHIEF ANYOUKU WHO WOULD IN TURN FORWARD IT TO THE GOVERNMENT.-- MORE

1712MST 06 10 90

D442

U E115 AAE
MAHATHIR-TAPE 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AFTER PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED ON FRIDAY, THE OBSERVER GROUP HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE DISSOLUTION.

THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED EARLIER THAT A GENERAL ELECTION IN MALAYSIA MIGHT NOT TAKE A LONG PERIOD AND AS SUCH THEY SHOULD MAKE PREPARATIONS TO COME EARLY.

ASKED WHETHER THE GROUP MEMBERS WOULD NOT HAVE AMPLE TIME TO OBSERVE A GENERAL ELECTION IN THE COUNTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT THAT TIME HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE THE DATE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

+WE TOLD THEM WE CANNOT FIX THE ELECTION DATE AS IT IS A SNAP ELECTION. WHAT WE DID WAS TO LET THEM KNOW ONLY ABOUT THE DATE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AS THE OTHER MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND NOT OURS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID WISMA PUTRA WAS ARRANGING FOR THE OBSERVER GROUP'S TRIP HERE.-- MORE

D434

U E116 AAE
MAHATHIR-TAPE 4 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R

HE SAID THE OBSERVERS WOULD BE FURNISHED WITH THE ELECTORAL ROLL AND MAPS OF CONSTITUENCIES AND ALLOWED TO HAVE MEETINGS WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HOWEVER WAS UNAWARE WHETHER OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE AGREEABLE TO THE OBSERVER GROUP'S PRESENCE DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE GROUP WOULD OBSERVE THE CONDUCT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION ACCORDING TO EXISTING REGULATIONS INCLUDING HAVING EQUAL RIGHTS TO HOLD TALKS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID JUST AS BOTH THE RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ENJOY EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, THEY WOULD BE AS WELL SUBJECT TO THE SAME RESTRICTIONS, IF ANY.-- BERNAMA
1755MST 06 10 90