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MAHATHIR-BMF R'R'R
BM

KUANTAN, OCT 17 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID HE NOW HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) SCANDAL HEADED BY FORMER AUDITOR-GENERAL TAN SRI AHMAD NORDIN.

+WE HAD A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY HEADED BY TAN SRI AHMAD NORDIN WHO NOW IS ALIGNED TO PARTI SEMANGAT 46,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE WHO APPROACHED HIM TO COMMENT ON SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S STATEMENT HERE LAST NIGHT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO TESTIFY BEFORE A SIMILAR INQUIRY COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE SCANDAL.

+IF THE COMMITTEE ABSOLVED TENGKU RAZALEIGH, WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT TAN SRI AHMAD NORDIN'S BIAS IN THE REPORT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS TODAY QUOTED FORMER BMF CHAIRMAN LORRAIN ESME OSMAN AS HAVING ACCUSED TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND IBRAHIM JAAFAR AS THE TWO PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BMF SCANDAL.-- MORE
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TENGKU RAZALEIGH IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF BMF AND BANK BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA BERHAD.

LORRAIN OSMAN WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1985 AND KEPT IN CUSTODY AT THE PENTONVILLE PRISON IN ENGLAND UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN HE WAS MOVED TO THE BRIXTON HIGH SECURITY PRISON IN LONDON.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE ONLY READ ABOUT LORRAIN'S DISCLOSURES THROUGH NEWSPAPERS AND HE BELIEVED THE FORMER BMF CHAIRMAN WAS APPARENTLY DISILLUSIONED WITH HIS MISFORTUNES.

+HE IS APPARENTLY FRUSTRATED BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN IN PRISON FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL. IT SEEMS HE IS DISMAYED BECAUSE THE PERSON WHO GAINED MOST IS FREE AND NOW ASPIRES TO BE PRIME MINISTER WHEREAS HE STAYS IN JAIL,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ANYBODY FOR THAT MATTER, WHO SUFFERED THE SAME FATE AS LORRAIN, WOULD BE DISILLUSIONED TOO.

LORRAIN HAD REPORTEDLY MADE THE DISCLOSURES IN A SPECIAL STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED BY A LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE TO MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS BASED IN LONDON.-- BERNAMA
1450MST 17 10 90