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MAHATHIR-BMF  
BM

KOTA BAHARU, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) SCANDAL COULD NOT BE SETTLED THROUGH A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AS IT IS A CRIMINAL CASE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MATTER SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH KELANTAN BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) CANDIDATES AT THE UMNO BUILDING HERE.

HE SAID THAT FURTHERMORE, A COMMITTEE HEADED BY FORMER AUDITOR-GENERAL TAN SRI AHMAD NOORDIN ZAKARIA HAD ALREADY BEEN SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE SCANDAL. THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE ACCOUNTANT ENCIK RAMLI IBRAHIM AND LAWYER ENCIK CHOOI MUN SOU.

BOTH ENCIK CHOOI AND TAN SRI AHMAD NOORDIN WERE NOW CLEARLY ON THE SIDE OF SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, HE ADDED.

+NOW WE DOUBT WHETHER THE COMMISSION WAS REALLY INDEPENDENT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS COMMENTING ON TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT QUOTED TENGKU RAZALEIGH AS SAYING THAT HE WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE BMF SCANDAL.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE LAYING DOWN OF ARMS OF THE NORTH KALIMANTAN COMMUNIST PARTY HAD PROVEN THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN FIGHTING THE COMMUNISTS.

THE ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT HAD FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN FORCING THEM TO LAY DOWN ARMS, HE SAID WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT FOR THE LAYING DOWN OF ARMS OF 53 MEMBERS OF THE SECOND BUREAU OF THE NORTH KALIMANTAN COMMUNIST PARTY LED BY ITS SECRETARY, ANG CHU TING, WITH THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IN KUCHING YESTERDAY.

HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS MADE THE MOVE BECAUSE THEY REALISED THE FUTILITY OF THEIR STRUGGLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT A SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE COUNTRY HAD ALSO DROPPED THE WORD +SOCIALIST+ FROM THE PARTY'S NAME.

HE SAID THAT +THIS WAS BECAUSE THEY REALISED THEY COULD NOT SUCCEED AND THIS IS ALSO LIKE LAYING DOWN ARMS.+ -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-BMF 3 KOTA BAHARU

BEFORE MEETING THE KELANTAN BN CANDIDATES, THE PRIME MINISTER MET SEVERAL FORMER MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES -- PAS, BERJASA AND HAMIM.

THEY HAD JOINED UMNO AT THE RESIDENCE OF MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB HERE. -- BERNAMA

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