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MAHATHIR - COMMONWEALTH
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 11 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS FINALISING A REPLY IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL POINTS WHICH ARE INACCURATE AND MISINTERPRETED CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ON THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED THE REPORT LAST WEEK AND FOUND SEVERAL POINTS WHICH WERE INACCURATE WHICH HE REGARDED AS BEING DUE TO CERTAIN FACTORS.

+WE WILL MAKE IT PUBLIC AFTER WE HAVE MADE THE CLARIFICATION ON THE POINTS INADVERTENTLY MISINTERPRETED BY THE OBSERVER GROUP,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL FAMILY DAY AT THE FOOTBALL STADIUM OF THE SPORTS COMPLEX IN PUSAT BANDAR TUN RAZAK IN CHERAS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AMONG THE POINTS MISINTERPRETED RELATED TO THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD WHICH WAS SAID TO BE TOO SHORT AND THE LACK OF COVERAGE GIVEN BY THE MAINSTREAM NEWSPAPERS TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

ACCORDING TO HIM THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD WAS ACTUALLY NOT AS SHORT AS ALLEGED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. -- MORE
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ON THE ALLEGATION THAT THE MAINSTREAM NEWSPAPERS DID NOT GIVE ADEQUATE COVERAGE ON THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, HE SAID THAT THE REPORT OF THE OBSERVER GROUP ONLY REFERRED TO THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REPORTS OF THE VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS LIKE THE MANDARIN AND TAMIL NEWSPAPERS ARE ALSO INCLINED TOWARDS THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THERE IS A WIDER READERSHIP OF SUCH NEWSPAPERS THAN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GROUP DID NOT MAKE THEIR ASSESSMENT BASED ON THE COVERAGE OF THE VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS BECAUSE THEY ONLY UNDERSTOOD THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE PUBLIC THE REPLY ON THE RELEVANT POINTS AT A SUITABLE TIME. -- BERNAMA
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