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Mahathir-DAP

DAP'S ACTION UNDEMOCRATIC, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ^{as} Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as undemocratic the DAP's rejection on Monday of a Barisan Nasional motion to amend the Pulau Pinang state constitution to increase by three the number of state constituencies.

+By this action, the DAP has denied the democratic right of a section of the people in Pulau Pinang to representation in the state assembly,+ he told reporters after launching a book +Aishah Ghani: Memoir Seorang Pejuang+ by the former Welfare Minister, here.

He said the action did not come as a surprise because in the DAP the voice of the member's was not something that was important as in other political organisations, including Umno.

Dr Mahathir said the government wanted to improve the system of representation but it was evident that the DAP did not wish to see the people enjoy better representation.

+The DAP practises an elite and cadre system where the leaders elect leaders and these leaders remain in the party (for some time). This is evidence that the DAP's hold on democracy is very weak,+ he said.-- more

▼04/11/21-23MST

CNS8965

R GE 04-11 00146 EP479

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Mahathir-DAP 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the number of people in certain constituencies had increased but the number of people's representatives remained the same and they were unable to discharge their duties effectively.

He said the government wanted to give as much representation as possible to the people.

+But the rejection (of the motion) means that the existing people's representatives will be unable to represent the bigger number of constituents,+ he said.

On the DAP's call for a referendum to decide the people's stand on the addition of seats, Dr Mahathir said +this is the opinion of a group without power which wants to assume power, and so they make such suggestions+.

+If there is no democracy within the party, then they should not talk of a referendum,+ he said. -- more

▼04/11/21-25MST

CNS8983

R GE 04-11 00115 EF480

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Mahathir-DAP 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, also asked about the explanation by Mara chairman Tamrin Ghafar of Mara's purchase of 450 units of membership in the Rahman Putra Golf Club, said he was studying the matter and could not comment on it yet.

+I have received reports from the minister (Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor) and the Mara chairman and am studying whether it is Mara's duty to engage in business such as this or whether it has other duties,+ he said;

He said the government wanted to know whether the purchase was in accordance with regulations or otherwise. -- Bernama

▼04/11/21-35MST

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