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Mahathir-Demonstrations

CERTAIN QUARTERS RESORT TO STREET DEMOS TO TOPPLE GOVERNMENT, SAYS PM

KUCHING, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hit out at certain quarters who resorted to street demonstrations and mob laws in an attempt to overthrow the government.

He said it was unfortunate that this group had decided to do away with democracy although the people in the country had every right to choose the government through the process of voting.

"They decided that the government should be brought down through demonstrations, riots and teasing the police in order to get them (police) to act violently against them," he said when opening the 52nd annual general meeting of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), here.

Dr Mahathir said they also tried to get support from foreign countries to create chaos in the country because they saw how the leader of a particular country was brought down and wanted to emulate it.

"It is unfortunate that we have this kind of people doing this kind of things to prevent the due process of law and a fair trial so that their wishes can be fulfilled," he said.

The Prime Minister said as a democratic country, elections had been held regularly since independence, 40 years ago, to determine which political parties should form the government.

The party with the biggest majority chose the leader of the government, he said.

He said Malaysia was a peaceful country where the different races lived and worked together harmoniously because the government did everything in an orderly fashion according to the law of the country.

Likewise in politics, the people also worked closely together although they might form parties based on race which, however, did not prevent them from respecting the rights of other ethnic groups, he said.

"And because we always respect and are considerate about each other, our country has been very peaceful since 1969 when unfortunately the first racial riots in Malaysia occurred," he said.

Making reference to the current issue, he said as the Prime Minister who had been democratically elected, he had the discretion to choose his cabinet members and whoever he chose was accepted as a member of the cabinet to form the government.

In the same way the Prime Minister had the right to terminate or ask the minister to step down if for any reason he was found to be not performing or had "some problems."

He said such person should accept the termination in a graceful manner without creating any trouble and if he was found to have done something wrong then he would be charged in the court of law.

"In the past, we have had Chief Ministers and even a federal minister charged for murder in court and sentenced to death and his sentence commuted to life by the Agong. That has happened," he said.

-- BERNAMA

CJ OPP RM