

05 OCT 1998

Mohamed-Election

CHANGE IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ONLY THROUGH ELECTION- MOHAMED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said today the people can only change the national leadership through an election and not through any reform movement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad could only be brought down by the people through the ballot box, he said when addressing the Information Ministry's monthly assembly in Angkasapuri here.

He said many including world leaders had not received the actual information pertaining to the removal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government and Umno.

The foreign media's aim in spreading negative propaganda that there was no democracy and freedom in this country was to make the people lose their rationality and sense of proportion and topple Dr Mahathir, he said.

Mohamed said the foreign media and the leaders concerned probably chose not to understand the actual situation so as to weaken and destroy this country by toppling the leader through the reform movement.

Mohamed urged Malaysians who loved their country to be patient and see the present situation in the right perspective, setting aside individual interests and giving priority to the nation.

He also reminded civil servants not to use office facilities to print and distribute pro reform movement literature.

"This should not happen as civil servants should safeguard office equipment and use it only for official purposes," he told Bernama after the assembly.

He said there was a small group of civil servants in Johor found to be using office equipment to print such materials.

He urged heads of department to give attention to this matter and explain to staff that disciplinary action could be taken against them for being involved in such activities.

Mohamed said the Information Ministry and its agencies would explain to its staff the sacking of Anwar to enable them to understand the problem at hand and brief the people.

He also urged civil servants to support the country as it hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit next month to prove to the world that Malaysians were inclined towards hard work.

Mohamed, who is a member of the Umno Supreme Council, also said he would explain at tomorrow's meeting of the council his statement that some 90 divisions had been paid by Anwar to topple the Prime Minister.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AAM