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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA)— THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING UP A LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN LESS-DEVELOPED AREAS INCLUDING SQUATTER AREAS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER WITH FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU TAN SRI RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND WOULD HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS.

OPENING THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUKIT +C+ 2 UMNO BRANCH AT PANTAI HALT HERE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING IN SQUATTER AREAS.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MANPOWER, ENCIK S. SUBRAMANIAM, WHO IS ALSO THE MP FOR DAMANSARA, WAS PRESENT.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE WHO WERE GIVEN AMENITIES SHOULD BE GRATEFUL BECAUSE THERE WERE OTHERS WHO DID NOT HAVE THEM.

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FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE FLATS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY OTHERS WHO WERE STILL LIVING AS SQUATTERS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER URGED THOSE WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY AID OR AMENITY FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO BE PATIENT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROJECTS AT ONCE.

ALL AREAS NEEDED AID AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF AID WOULD BE MADE ACCORDING TO PRIORITY.

DR. MAHATHIR PROMISED TO STUDY THE MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE BRANCH ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE RESIDENTS THERE. HE SAID HE WOULD FORWARD THE MEMORANDUM TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES FOR ACTION

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DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, TOLD NEWSMEN LATER THAT THE TWO COMMITTEES SET UP TO STUDY THE FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC SITUATION OF THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD BEGIN THEIR WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE HOPED THE COMMITTEES COULD COMPLETE THEIR WORK PROMPTLY SO THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE MIT.

EARLIER, DR. MAHATHIR WAS DRIVEN IN A MOTORCADE PRECEDED BY A MOTORCYCLE ESCORT MADE UP OF UMNO YOUTHS FROM THE JUNCTION AT THE ENTRY INTO PANTAI DALAM TO THE PLACE OF THE MEETING, ABOUT HALF-A-MILE AWAY.

HE WAS GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME BY RESIDENTS, INCLUDING MIC MEMBERS, AND A KOMPANG GROUP. —BERNAMA 1805/1B