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MAHATHIR
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ALOR STAR, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED CALLED TODAY FOR A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TO BE INSTILLED IN THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN KAMPUNGS, TO ENSURE GREATER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE ALSO URGED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE FROM ONE OF BEING CONTENT WITH EARNING A SALARY TO ONE OF ACCELERATING NATIONAL GROWTH.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AFTER A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF KUBANG PASU DISTRICT BY DISTRICT OFFICER ENCIK TAJUDDIN HAJI HASHM AT JITRA, 12 MILES FROM HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DR. MAHATHIR'S WIFE, DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHAMED ALI, MUDA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MADA) CHAIRMAN DATUK SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN, STATE ASSEMBLYMEN IN THE DISTRICT AND SENIOR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

DR. MAHATHIR SPOKE OF THE NEED TO CHANGE THE KAMPUNG PEOPLE'S LIKING TO DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STANDING ON THEIR OWN FEET. BERNAMA MORE 1739/BY

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HE SAID A PERSON WHO WAS GIVEN TOO MUCH HELP WOULD BECOME WEAK. ON THE OTHER HAND, A PERSON WHO STRIVED TO ACHIEVE HIS AIMS WOULD BE STRONG AND MORE RESOURCEFUL, HE SAID.

+AS SUCH WE MUST ENCOURAGE THEM TO HELP THEMSELVES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE IS NO BETTER WAY THAN TO INSTIL IN THEM A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT.+

DR. MAHATHIR SUGGESTED A CLEANLINESS AND DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION BETWEEN KAMPUNGS.

HE SAID AID AND AMENITIES FOR KAMPUNGS SHOULD BE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF SUCH A COMPETITION.

THIS MEANT THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS MUST WORK HARDER TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF THIS COMPETITION, HE SAID AND ADDED THAT THEY SHOULD ONLY FEEL SATISFIED WHEN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WAS AT ITS PEAK.-- BERNAMA MORE 1741/BY

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID EVERY MALAYSIAN WOULD WANT TO SEET THE COUNTRY RUN EFFECTIVELY AND ITS CITIZENS DOING SOMETHING NOT FOR THEIR OWN GOOD BUT FOR THE NATION.

+NATIONAL PRIDE WILL MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE TOWARDS WORKING HARDER TO MAKE THE COUNTRY KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.+

HE BELIEVED IF THE PEOPLE POSSESSED NATIONAL PRIDE AND WORKED HARD TO HELP OTHERS WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE, THE NATION WOULD EXPERIENCE MOE INTENSE DEVELOPMENT.

ON DEVELOPMENT, DR. MAHATHIR SAID KEDAH COULD UNDERGO GREATER CHANGES AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO GRANT MORE AID TO LESS DEVELOPED STATES.

HE SAID AID WOULD BE BASED ON KEDAH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. --BERNAMA MORE 1745/BY

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THIS CONTRIBUTION, HE SAID, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SO OBVIOUS. BUT HE REMINDED THAT DURING THE INFLATION, KEDAH WAS ABLE TO SUPPRESS AND STABILISE PRICE INCREASES OF RICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

AS SUCH, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER GRANTING MORE AID TO STEP UP DEVELOPMENT IN KEDAH, HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, DR. MAHATHIR WARNED THAT THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE UNLESS THE STATE PREPARED VIABLE PROJECTS AND WAS WILLING TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

HE ALSO WARNED THAT NOT TOO MUCH ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES. INSTEAD, EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED MORE TO TOURISM, AN INDUSTRY THAT COULD INCREASE THE PEOPLE'S INCOME.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT ALONE, THERE WERE SEVERAL AREAS WHICH COULD BE TURNED INTO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. --BERNAMA MORE 1749/BY

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THERE WERE SEVERAL HILLS CONTAINING QUARTZ WHICH COULD BE USED IN MAKING TERRAZO TILES AND TABLE TOPS.

WHAT WAS NEEDED, DR. MAHATHIR SAID, WAS FOR EXPERTS FROM THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ENTREPRENEURS TO STUDY THE TYPES OF INDUSTRIES THAT COULD BE SET UP IN THE AREA.

IN ADDITION, STUDIES COULD ALSO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF THESE EFFORTS WERE REALISED, KEDAH WOULD UNDERGO GREATER ECONOMIC GROWTH. --BERNAMA 1751/BY