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MAHATHIR-DIALOGUE

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IPOH, JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY SOME POLITICIANS +TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT+ BY PORTRAYING THEMSELVES AS CHAMPIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND DEMANDING THE GOVERNMENT GIVE THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, ALL THAT THEY WANTED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE POLITICIANS SHOULD RECOGNISE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES WERE LIMITED AND THAT DEVELOPMENT MUST BE BASED ON PRIORITY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE GENERALLY DID NOT THANK THE GOVERNMENT OR EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED, SUCH AS ROADS, BRIDGES, CLINICS, SCHOOLS AND THE LIKE.

+FIRST THEY ASK FOR WATER AND WE GIVE IT TO THEM. THEN, THEY DEMAND ELECTRICITY AND WHEN THIS IS OBTAINED, THEY WANT A SCHOOL, SCHOLARSHIPS AND SO ON.

+THIS IS A NEVER-ENDING THING AND THE PEOPLE MUST REALISE THAT THEY CANNOT HAVE EVERYTHING AT ONCE.+

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO ENSURE THAT ITS RESOURCES, WHICH WERE LIMITED, WOULD BRING MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN A JUST MANNER.

+POLITICIANS MUST MAKE THE PEOPLE REALISE WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY GOT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE TO GOT SO MUCH BENEFITS ALREADY.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1513/YF

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HE SAID POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT +FAN THE FLAMES+ OF THE PEOPLE'S FRUSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT PROVIDING THEM WITH ALL THEY WANTED.

DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THEM THAT THE MARK OF A LEADER WAS NOT GAUGED BY THE DEMANDS HE MADE BUT BY THE WAY HE APPROACHED THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND THE WAY HE WORKED TO OVERCOME THEM.

TURNING TO STATE INDUSTRIALISATION, HE SAID SOME STATES ONLY COMPLAINED ABOUT OTHER STATES WHICH WERE DOING WELL WHILE THEY THEMSELVES JUST WAITED FOR INVESTORS TO COME TO THEM.

HE SAID THOUGH SOME STATES HAD SOME DISADVANTAGES IN INDUSTRIALISATION, HE FELT THESE COULD BE OVERCOME IF THEY SHOWED INITIATIVE AND DRIVE AND PLAYED UP ON THE ADVANTAGES THEY COULD PROVIDE INDUSTRIES.

HE ADVISED STATES TO WOO INVESTORS BY SENDING OUT MISSIONS AND SHOWING FILMS OUTLINING THE ADVANTAGES THEY COULD OFFER.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AFTER A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY. -- BERNAMA 1517/YF

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