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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 12 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANT +DYNAMIC, AGGRESSIVE AND IMAGINATIVE+ PUBLIC OFFICERS TO FIGHT POVERTY.

HE SAID THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN STRESSED BOOSTING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE PEOPLE TO WIPE OUT POVERTY.

BUT, THE PEOPLE'S PRODUCTIVITY COULD NOT BE RAISED WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OFFICERS.

+THEREFORE, BEFORE WE CAN RAISE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE PEOPLE WE MUST FIRST INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE OFFICERS,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING BEFORE HE PRESENTED DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES HERE TONIGHT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WHO COMPLETED A COURSE CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE (INTAN). -- BERNAMA MORE 2043/LK

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID STREAMLINING OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY WAS NOW A +CRITICAL+ FACTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD PLAN.

TRAINING GIVEN BY INTAN FORMED AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CONSOLIDATING THE ENERGY AND MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE ASKED FOR HIGH +MORAL COURAGE+ FROM OFFICERS WHO RETURNED TO THEIR ORGANISATIONS AFTER TRAINING AT INTAN BECAUSE, TO PUSH THROUGH CHANGES, THEY WOULD SURELY FACE BOTH ACTIVE AND PASIVE RESISTANCE.

SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE WOULD DEPEND ON THE WISDOM OF THEIR APPROACH, HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR, IN ANALYSING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY AND HOW TO END IT, SAID: +WE MUST RE-EXAMINE OURSELVES AND OUR AGENCIES SERIOUSLY TO DETERMINE HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE NATION AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 2046/LK

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+TO FACE THIS CHALLENGE, WE MUST UNDERSTAND, WEIGH AND ACT TOGETHER WITH HIGH SELF-MOTIVATION AND HONEST CONDUCT.+

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO UPLIFT THE COMMUNITY IF THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY AND LACKED PERCEPTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE POOR, HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO ASKED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS NOT TO PLACE TOO MUCH VALUE ON MATERIAL WEALTH AND SATISFACTION OF SELF-EARNINGS.

THERE SHOULD BE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES.

+WE SHOULD SEEK GREATER WEALTH BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF FORGETTING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US.

+LET US NOT DEMAND FROM SOCIETY WHAT IT COULD NOT AFFORD,+ HE SAID.

+MORE IMPORTANT, LET US NOT THREATEN SOCIETY WHICH HAS GIVEN US A PRIVILEGED POSITION BECAUSE WE WANT MORE THAN WHAT HAS BEEN GIVEN BY SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 2049/LK