

76 (C)  
KANGAR, NOV. 29 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE COUNTRY'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN ALL FIELDS HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF SOUND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION. THE SYSTEM DRAWN UP BY THE FINANCE MINISTERS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE GREATER PROGRESS.

HE SAID THAT IF THE SYSTEM WAS DISCARDED AND IF MONEY WAS WASTED THE COUNTRY WOULD FALL INTO CHAOS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY OF PERLIS BY STATE SECRETARY DATUK MANSOR OSMAN IN THE STATE OPERATIONS ROOD HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MENTERI BESAR DATUK JAAFAR HASSAN, STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN LARGER ALLOCATIONS TO THE LESS-DEVELOPED STATES SUCH AS PERLIS, KEDAH, KELANTAN AND TRENGGANU TO ENABLE THEM TO ACHIEVE MORE RAPID PROGRESS.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE SUCH STATES USUALLY DID NOT UTILISE THEIR ALLOCATIONS FULLY DUE TO SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED AND TECHNICAL MANPOWER. --BERNAMA MORE 1615/BY

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NO56 (F)

MAHATHIR-BRIEFING 2 KANGAR

LARGER ALLOCATIONS HAD TO BE MADE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT TO THAT OF OTHER DEVELOPED STATES.

THIS WOULD INCREASE THESE STATES' ABILITY TO UTILISE ALL THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THEM.

HE HOWEVER REMINDED THEM THAT THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THEM SHOULD BE USED IN A SOUND SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT THE OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED.

ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO FOOT ONE-THIRD OF THE EXPENDITURE. 14D

FROM NOW, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE EXPENDITURE WHILE THE NEB WOULD PAY THE REST. 137

EARLIER, DURING THE BRIEFING, DATUK MANSOR SAID A LARGE PORTION OF THE \$156 MILLION ALLOCATION FOR PERLIS UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN WOULD BE USED FOR PROJECTS TO RAISE THE INCOME OF THE RURAL PEOPLE.

THESE INCLUDE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN THE AREAS UNDER THE MUDA IRRIGATION SCHEME WHICH WERE NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT WATER. --BERNAMA MORE 1618/BY

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NO57 (F)

MAHATHIR-BRIEFING 3 KANGAR

APART FROM THIS PROJECT, WHICH WOULD COST \$11 MILLION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE BETTER WATER SUPPLY TO PADI AREAS OUTSIDE THE MUDA SCHEME TO ENABLE FARMERS THERE TO ENGAGE IN DOUBLE-CROPPING OF PADI.

ON THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING, DATUK MANSOR SAID THAT THE POLICE, CUSTOMS, ARMY AND LPN WERE EXERCISING MORE STRINGENT CHECKS TO ELIMINATE THE SMUGGLING OF DRUGS, FIREARMS, RICE AND OTHER COMMODITIES INTO THE COUNTRY.

PATROLLING ON THE HIGHWAYS AND AT SEA HAD BEEN INTENSIFIED AND 60 MORE POLICE PERSONNEL EACH WERE STATIONED AT PADANG BESAR AND KUALA PERLIS.

HE SAID THE SMUGGLING OF RICE THROUGH PADANG BESAR HAD DROPPED AND SECURITY UNITS WERE STATIONED AT THE AREA. --BERNAMA