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 LABUAN, MAY 15 (BERNAMA)-- THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN STRICTER CONTROL TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF FILIPINO REFUGEES TO SABAH IN FUTURE, ACCORDING TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE NEARLY 90,000 REFUGEES IN SABAH AT PRESENT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN THERE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE WELL-VERSED WITH THE LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND OTHER CONDITIONS TO QUALIFY THEM FOR MALAYSIAN CITIZENSHIP.

HE SAID HE DID NOT FORSEE ANY DIFFICULTY IN ABSORBING THEM WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION IN SABAH AS MOST OF THE REFUGEES HAD RELATIVES IN THE STATE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR KUALA LUMPUR AT THE END OF A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SABAH. --BERNAMA MORE 1135/1P

#### MAHATHIR-DEPARTURE 2 LABUAN

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, POINTED OUT THAT SABAH HAD AGREED TO THE TAKE OVER OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY.

A RELIGIOUS SECONDARY SCHOOL WOULD BE BUILT IN EVERY STATE WHICH HAD AGREED TO THE TAKE OVER, HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF SARAWAK DR. MAHATHIR SAID, RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN THE STATE HAD NOT REACHED THE REQUIRED STANDARD TO WARRANT THE BUILDING OF SUCH A SCHOOL.

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE SALARY REPORT FOR MORE THAN 500,000 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT MONTH ON THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF ARREARS.

HE SAID THE NEW SALARY SCALES WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN SABAH AND SARAWAK.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ADDED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE THE SCALES WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN GROUPS OF EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT LOSE.--BERNAMA MORE 1200/1P

#### MAHATHIR-DEPARTURE 3 LABUAN

ON THE STATE'S FUTURE, HE SAID IT WAS BRIGHT AS SABAH HAD HER VAST POTENTIAL READY FOR ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION.

HE WAS ALSO SATISFIED WITH THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ACCELERATE SABAH'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAD CREATED MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE STATE, HE FELT THAT THERE WERE NO OBSTACLES FOR THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RAKYAT.

SABAH CHIEF MINISTER, DATUK HARRIS SALLEH, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FORMED RECENTLY WOULD MEET IN KOTA KINABALU ON MAY 26.

THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER, DATUK MUSA HITAM, WOULD REPRESENT THE BARISAN AT THE MEETING. --BERNAMA MORE 1213/1P

#### MAHATHIR-DEPARTURE 4 LABUAN

DR. MAHATHIR AND DR. SITI HASMAH WERE GIVEN A TRADITIONAL SEND-OFF AT THE AIRPORT HERE. HE INSPECTED A GUARDAOF-HONOUR MOUNTED BY 53 OFFICERS AND MEN.

THE ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE SABAH COMPONENT BAND AND KOMPANG GROUPS WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE DATUK HARRIS AND OTHER STATE CABINET MINISTERS.--BERNAMA 1215/1P