

MAHATHIR-DINNER

PENANG, AUG. 2 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA HAS THE ABILITY TO SOLVE HER OWN PROBLEMS, SAID DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HERE.

HE SAID THOUGH THE NATION FACED SEVERAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING RACIAL DISPARITY BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR AND DISSATISFACTION BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER, IT MANAGED TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS ON ITS OWN.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN HONOUR OF HIS TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PENANG AT A LEADING HOTEL HERE LAST NIGHT.

HE SAID THOUGH THE RACIAL PROBLEM WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, MALAYSIA WAS ABLE TO HANDLE IT WELL COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA FACED THE PROBLEM WITHOUT EMOTION BUT WITH GOODWILL AND BROTHERHOOD IN LINE WITH THE AIMS OF CREATING A UNITED, PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY. — BERNAMA MORE 1200/SZ

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ON DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE PEOPLE, THE DEPUTY PREMIER SAID THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

THE PROBLEM ALSO PREVAILED IN MOST COUNTRIES AND WAS NOT PECULIAR TO MALAYSIA.

TOUCHING ON DISPARITY BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PROBLEM WAS NOT AS SERIOUS AS REPORTED IN A NEW YORK MAGAZINE.

CRITICISING THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE HE POINTED OUT THAT IN NEW YORK ITSELF THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR GROUPS IN HARLEM.

MALAYSIA ACHIEVED AN INTENSIVE AND EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS BECAUSE SHE BELIEVED IN DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE AND KNEW ITS LIMITATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CALLED ON POLITICAL PARTIES TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POLITICAL STABILITY BY REDUCING POLITICKING.

THE COUNTRY HAD ACHIEVED AN EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC EXPANSION DUE TO REDUCATION IN POLITICKING THROUGH THE FORMATION OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL. — BERNAMA MORE 1204/SZ

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HE SAID POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING AND CRITICISE THEIR OWN COUNTRY BY COMPARING IT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE PRIVILEGES IN MALAYSIA WERE UNDENIABLE COMPARED WITH MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

THIS WAS PROVEN BY MALAYSIANS WHO SETTLED DOWN IN OTHER COUNTRIES, ALWAYS RETURNING HERE.

ON PENANG'S DEVELOPMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS WAS VERY ATTRACTIVE. HE WAS CONFIDENT PENANG WOULD BECOME AN OUTSTANDING STATE IN MALAYSIA IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE STATE FOR CARRYING OUT HOUSING PROJECTS ESPECIALLY FOR THE LOWER INCOME GROUP. — BERNAMA 1207/SZ