

MAHATHIR-BUMIPUTRA

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PENANG, AUG. 2 (BERNAMA)--A STEERING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP TO HELP SOLVE VARIOUS PROBLEMS AND SHORT-COMINGS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD FACED BY BUMIPUTRAS HERE SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS UNDER THE JOINT CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION UNIT IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE SECRETARY.

HE ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNIT RECENTLY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WISMA PERSEKUTUAN HERE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO PENANG, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOUND OUT SEVERAL SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD FACED BY THE BUMIPUTRAS IN THE STATE.

IF THESE SHORTCOMINGS WERE OVERCOME BUMIPUTRA PROBLEMS IN THE STATE COULD BE SOLVED. --BERNAMA MORE 1715/MD

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HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH SEVERAL MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO HELP BUMIPUTRAS IN THE STATE, THE ACHIEVEMENT WAS STILL NOT VERY SATISFACTORY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED REGARDING THE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.

ALL PROBLEMS RELATED TO ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE SOLVED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT ALL PROJECTS COULD BE CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ASSURE THAT ALL PROJECTS COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE ALLOCATED PERIOD, BUT IT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO.

THIS WAS CAUSED BY UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS SQUATTERS, LAND AND FINANCE.

ON HIS MEETING WITH LEADERS OF THE STATE BARISAN NASIONAL YESTERDAY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED THE CONCEPT OF BARISAN NASIONAL TO THEM. --BERNAMA MORE 1719/MD

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THERE WERE MEMBERS OF COMPONENT PARTIES WHO HAD A DIFFERENT ASSESSMENT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT, HE SAID.

+THE BARISAN NASIONAL IS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY BUT AN AFFILIATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHEREBY EACH MEMBER STILL REMAINS IN HIS OWN PARTY AND MAINTAINS HIS OWN OBJECTIVES, + HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL DEPENDED GREATLY ON THE ABILITY OF ITS LEADERS TO PROVIDE A CLEAR PICTURE TO MEMBERS.

ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMPONENT PARTIES, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROVISION OF MORE SEATS TO ANY ONE PARTY WOULD BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER.

IF ALL COMPONENT PARTIES WANTED MORE SEATS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO ENTERTAIN THE REQUEST, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI (DR) MAHATHIR-REFUTED ALLEGATIONS OF CONFLICT AMONG ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES. --BERNAMA MORE 1722/MD

DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD CLARIFY THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AS EMPLOYER AT THE TABLING OF A BILL IN DEWAN NEGARA TO SET UP A TRIBUNAL TO SOLVE ALL ANOMALIES FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SALARY SCHEME.

THE MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED SO LONG AS THERE WERE PROBLEMS LINKED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALARY SCHEME, HE ADDED.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS OF GRADUATES, HE ADVISED THEM NOT TO BE TOO CHOOSY.

THE PROBLEM WAS ALSO CAUSED BY CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO PURSUED COURSES WHICH OFFERED LITTLE OR NO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR URGED STUDENTS TO TAKE COURSES SUCH AS ENGINEERING, MEDICINE AND LAW - GRADUATES OF WHICH THE NATION REQUIRED MOST. -- BERNAMA 1724/YF