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PENANG, OCT. 9 (BERNAMA) — ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EMPHASISED TODAY THAT THE KELANTAN POLITICAL CRISIS WILL NOT JEOPARDISE NATIONAL SECURITY OR THE ECONOMY.

HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL STABILITY WAS ASSURED DESPITE THE PRESENT CRISES AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TOO ANXIOUS OVER THE SITUATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WISMA PERSEKUTUAN BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER BEING HERE SINCE YESTERDAY.

HE SAID THAT IN ANY DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY THERE WERE BOUND TO BE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WHETHER BIG OR SMALL, BECAUSE +SOME POLITICIANS YEARN FOR A PLACE IN THE GOVERNMENT+.

+INSPITE OF THE CRISES, THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AND THIS PROVES THAT THE ECONOMY AND SECURITY WILL BE NOT AFFECTED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID NATIONAL SECURITY WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE CRISES IN THE STATES, LIKE KELANTAN AND MALACCA. — BERNAMA MORE 1203/LK

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NO33: (F)
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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS ONE OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES WHERE POLITICAL STABILITY HAD ATTRACTED NUMEROUS FOREIGN INVESTORS.

+NO POLITICAL CRISIS IS GOING TO ALTER THE VIEWS THESE INVESTORS HAVE IN MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID.

ON COMPLAINTS THAT THE BUMIPUTRAS WERE STILL LAGGING IN DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO SPEED UP THEIR PARTICIPATION.

HE GAVE A COMPARISON OF THE SITUATION BEFORE THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WAS LAUNCHED, DURING WHICH VERY FEW BUMIPUTRAS WERE INTERESTED IN BUSINESS, AND AFTER, WHEN THE NUMBER BEGAN INCREASING STEADILY.

+THE SAME GOES FOR DEVELOPMENT, AT FIRST, BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION WAS VERY DISCOURAGING BUT I AM CONFIDENT THIS WILL BE OVERCOME.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REFERRED TO APPEALS BY PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAD OBTAINED MEDICAL DEGREES NOT RECOGNISED BY THE GOVERNMENT. — BERNAMA MORE 1207/LK

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NO34: (F)
MAHATHIR 3 PENANG

HE SAID THE MEDICAL PROFESSION INVOLVED THE QUESTION OF THE LIFE OR DEATH OF A HUMAN BEING.

IN ENSURING THAT ALL DOCTORS IN THE COUNTRY WERE GENUINELY QUALIFIED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO IMPOSE CERTAIN CONDITIONS, HE ADDED.

ON THE PROBLEMS OF PETTY TRADERS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID GOVERNMENT EFFORTS WOULD GO TO WASTE IF THIS GROUP WAS NOT ABLE TO RUN THEIR BUSINESSES PROPERLY.

THE MAIN PROBLEM FACING THEM, HE SAID, WAS CAPITAL AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT PETTY TRADERS REGARDED LOANS AS +THEIR OWN MONEY+.

+MANY OF THEM WISH TO EXPAND BUT THEY DO THIS BY INCURRING DEBTS OR THROUGH LOANS WHICH RESULT IN EVEN HEAVIER BURDENS,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD HELP THEM BY PROVIDING SITES AS WELL AS ADVICE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO MET THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HERE. — BERNAMA MORE 1210/LK

HE SAID THAT AT THE MEETING SEVERAL MATTERS WERE RAISED, INCLUDING HOUSING PROJECTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, MARA'S ROLE IN BUS EXPRESS SERVICE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF STARTING A MINI-BUS SERVICE.

ON THE HOUSING PROJECT, THE CHAMBER PROTESTED THAT IT WAS NOT CONSULTED AND THAT IT WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN IT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE PROJECT WAS NOT RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SAUDI ARABIAN HOUSING MINISTER AND HIS MALAYSIAN COUNTERPART, DATUK MICHAEL CHEN.

AT THE MEETING, THE CHAMBER ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE ITS PROPOSAL FOR A MINI-BUS SERVICE. --BERNAMA 1212/LK