

MAHATHIR
BM

78

KOTA BHARU, FEB. 13 (BERNAMA)—ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD FULFIL ITS PLEDGE TO BRING DEVELOPMENT IN KELANTAN ALTHOUGH THE EMERGENCY RULE WAS LIFTED YESTERDAY.

"ALTHOUGH THE EMERGENCY RULE WAS SHORT, IT HAS PUT THE STATE ADMINISTRATION ON A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ALREADY PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED," HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PENKALAN CHEPA HERE, BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A ONE-DAY VISIT TO KELANTAN.

YESTERDAY, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE YANG DIPERTUAN AGUNG HAD LIFTED THE EMERGENCY LAWS IN KELANTAN WITH EFFECT FROM YESTERDAY ON THE ADVICE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

ALSO RETURNING WITH HIM WERE FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF BARISAN NASIONAL, ENCIK ABDUL GHAFAR BABA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS PROMISED ALL FORMS OF AID WOULD BE CHANNELLED TO THE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT NOW IN KELANTAN TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS STARTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT, ENCIK HASHIM AMAN WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

MAHATHIR 2 KOTA BHARU

"IF ANY PROJECTS NEED MORE ALLOCATION, WE WILL EVEN CONSIDER IT," SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT BESIDE ENCIK HASHIM, ALL THE FEDERAL OFFICERS WHO WERE SENT HERE TO ASSIST THE EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SERVE ON SECONDMENT BASIS TO HELP SMOOTHEN THE STATE ADMINISTRATION MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. IF IT WISHED THEM TO STAY ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THAT.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ENCIK HASHIM AND TWO OR THREE OTHER OFFICERS, INCLUDING HIS DEPUTY, ENCIK AHMAD BADRI WOULD BE ASKED TO CONTINUE THEIR SERVICES IN KELANTAN FOR SOME TIME.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE KELANTAN PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER SO THAT ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS COULD CONTINUE SMOOTHLY.

BERJASA, HE SAID THAT BARISAN NASIONAL WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ITS APPLICATION TO BE A MEMBER.

HE ADDED THIS HOWEVER, DEPENDED ON MANY FACTORS SUCH AS WHETHER OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD ACCEPT IT OR NOT.

MAHATHIR 3 KOTA BHARU

+UMNO HAS NO OBJECTION TO ITS ADMISSION INTO BARISAN NASIONAL AS TO BACKSTAB THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US, BUT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT BARISAN NASIONAL IS NOT OWNED SOLELY BY UMNO,+ HE ADDED.

ON HIS POSITION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AS LONG AS THEY WANTED HIM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT HIM ANYMORE, HE WOULD ABIDE BY THEIR DECISION AS HE WAS NOT LIKE SOME PEOPLE WHO WANTED +PERMANENT SERVICE+.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BRIEFED THE KELANTAN UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE LAST NIGHT ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS, UMNO'S STAND ON MEMBER AND RIVAL PARTIES AND THE ROLE OF THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. — BERNAMA 1700/ZCM