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ALOR STAR, FEB. 25 (BERNAMA) — THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMA, HAS SUGGESTED THAT BUMIPUTRA COOPERATIVES AND BAZAARS TRY TO FIND POPULAR AREAS IN TOWN CENTRES TO CARRY OUT THEIR BUSINESS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CHANNEL THE NECESSARY AID TO ENABLE THEM TO DO THIS, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE PEKAN RABU COMMERCIAL COMPLEX COSTING \$3.2 MILLION HERE TODAY.

HE STRESSED THAT BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE GOOD PROGRESS ONLY IN SUCH AREAS.

HE SAID THE COMPLEX REPRESENTED A SYMBOL OF THE BUMIPUTRAS' DESIRES TO SUCCEED IN COMMERCE.

HE ALSO URGED BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN TO LEARN THE ART OF DISPLAYING THEIR WARES ATTRACTIVELY TO LURE MORE CUSTOMERS.

EARLIER, MENTERI BESAR, DATUK SERI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN, SAID MARA HAD ALLOCATED MORE THAN \$36 MILLION TO IMPLEMENT COMMERCIAL PROJECTS FOR BUMIPUTRAS IN THE STATE UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN. — BERNAMA MORE 1508/YF

MAHATHIR-TRADE 2 ALOR STAR

ON PETTY TRADERS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP LOAN SCHEMES, STALLS AND GIVEN OUT TRICYCLES TO ASSIST THEM IN BUSINESS.

MARA DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DR. ABDUL AZIZ BIN HAJI MAHMUD, SAID MARA WAS NOW IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THESE INCLUDED A SEVEN-STOREY BUSINESS COMPLEX COSTING \$4.5 MILLION IN KOTA BHARU AND ANOTHER FIVE-STOREY COMPLEX COSTING \$3.7 MILLION KUANTAN.

SO FAR, IT HAD SET UP 91 COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS CONTAINING 1,250 TRADING UNITS COSTING \$15 MILLION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

IN KEDAH ALONE, MARA HAD CONSTRUCTED 59 SHOPS AND BAZAARS IN KULIM, JITRA AND PULAU LANGKAWI.

UNDER THE SECOND PART OF THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, MARA WOULD SET UP FOUR SHOPHOUSES AND 26 BAZAARS COSTING ABOUT \$4 MILLION. — BERNAMA 1512/YF