

MAHATHIR-LOANS

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PARIT BUNTAR, JULY 3rd (BERNAMA) — ^(P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY TOOK TO TASK PEOPLE WHO CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR GETTING LOANS FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO BORROW FROM THESE SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION AND ENJOY A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING.

HE REITERATED THAT FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO GIVE LOANS TO MALAYSIA BECAUSE THEY KNEW MALAYSIA WAS IN A POSITION TO REPAY THE LOANS BECAUSE OF HER STABLE ECONOMY.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE \$6.5 MILLION NATIONAL PADI AND RICE AUTHORITY COMPLEX AT SIMPANG LIMA IN KRIAN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CHALLENGED THOSE WHO CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT BENEFITTED FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ANY WAY TO PROVE THEIR ALLEGATION. — BERNAMA MORE 1900/ZCM

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ON THE COMPLEX AT SIMPANG LIMA HE HOPED IT WOULD SPELL THE END OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF FARMERS IN THE AREA BY MIDDLEMEN. THE MENTRI BESAR OF PERAK, WAN MOHAMED HAJI WAN TEH, SAID THE COMPLEX WAS AMONG NUMEROUS FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR FARMERS IN THE KRIAN AREA BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE PADI FIELDS COVERING ABOUT 49,000 ACRES IN KRIAN CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT RICE-BOWL AREA NOT JUST FOR PERAK BUT ALSO PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. — BERNAMA 1907/ZCM