

MAS-MAHATHIR

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(P)

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 27 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT HESITATE TO SCRAP MAS SERVICES IF THE NATIONAL AIR CARRIER CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WARNED TODAY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT GO ON POURING MILLIONS OF RINGGIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS INTO THE AIRLINE IF +IT IS NOT BEING RUN PROPERLY.+

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER CHAIRING THE NATIONAL FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING HERE, HE SAID THAT LAST MONTH ALONE, THE AIRLINE SUFFERED A LOSS OF \$2.2 MILLION.

+WE DEFINITELY CANNOT ALLOW SUCH A SITUATION CONTINUE FOR LONG AS IT WOULD AFFECT THE NATIONAL INTERESTS,+ HE ADDED.

HE ATTRIBUTED THE LOSS GENERALLY TO THE ILLEGAL INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY THE WORKERS WHICH BEGAN ON DEC. 5 LAST YEAR.

WHEN ASKED IF HE HELD THE MANAGEMENT SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID, +I DO NOT WANT TO PUT THE BLAME ON ANYONE—NEITHER THE MANAGEMENT NOR THE UNION— BUT IT TAKES TWO HANDS TO CLAP.+ — BERNAMA MORE

MAS-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT REVIEW ITS DECISION ON WHETHER TO INVEST FURTHER IN THE AIRLINE.

ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY CONTINGENCY PLAN TO COPE WITH THE CURRENT FESTIVE RUSH IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT GO-SLOW, HE SAID: +YOU BETTER ASK THE MANAGEMENT THIS. I AM SURE THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT OF IT.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO INVESTED MILLIONS OF RINGGIT IN BUILDING AIRPORTS AND OTHER RELATED FACILITIES.

+WE HAVE APPROVED \$80 MILLION TO GIVE A FACE LIFT TO THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

+ALL THIS MONEY WILL BE WASTED IF OUR OWN NATIONAL AIRLINE IS NOT RUNNING EFFICIENTLY.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION. — BERNAMA 1324/YF