

MAHATHIR-FINANCE

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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 27 (BERNAMA) — ALL STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF REVENUE TO MEET INCREASING EXPENDITURE ON DEVELOPMENT.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, GAVE THIS DIRECTIVE TO MENTRIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING CHAIRED BY HIM HERE TODAY.

STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD TO STREAMLINE THEIR REVENUE-COLLECTING PROCEDURES.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING THAT MOST STATES WERE NOW RUNNING ON DEFICIT BUDGETS AND THAT IT WAS UP TO THEM TO OVERCOME THE DEFICIT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO HELP STATE AUTHORITIES IMPLEMENT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE IN THE RED WAS THE INCREASED EXPENDITURE NEEDED TO PAY THE REVISED SALARIES FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS UNDER THE NEW CABINET COMMITTEE SALARY SCALES. — BERNAMA MORE 1337/YF

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ON LAND ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW STUDYING A REPORT PREPARED BY THE MALAYSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANPOWER PLANNING UNIT.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE REPORT BASED ON A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THREE DISTRICTS IN NEGRI SEMBILAN, REVEALED THAT LAND OFFICES WERE VERY POORLY EQUIPPED AND HAD NO PROPER FILING SYSTEM.

+WE ARE LOOKING INTO ALL THESE THINGS AND WE HOPE TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT LAND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO HELP PROVIDE STATE AUTHORITIES WITH FUNDS FOR THE BUILDING OF NEW LAND OFFICES IN DISTRICTS THAT DID NOT HAVE THEM.

ON LOW-COST HOUSING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS HAPPY THAT SUCH SCHEMES HAD EXCEEDED THE TARGET SET UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS STILL A LOT THAT COULD BE DONE TO PROVIDE CHEAPER HOUSES TO THE PEOPLE.

ON VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SAID THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WAS DOING ITS BEST TO FILL ALL THE VACANCIES.

+THE RECRUITMENT SYSTEM NOW HAS IN FACT BEEN STREAMLINED, IN THAT THE COMMISSION RECRUITS ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS UNLIKE BEFORE WHERE RECRUITMENT WAS BASED ON IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR DEPARTMENT OR MINISTRY,+ HE ADDED. — BERNAMA 1344/YF