

MAHATHIR-MAS 79 P

KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 11 (BERNAMA) — THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WHO ARE OUT TO SABOTAGE AND +DESTROY+ MAS, THE NATIONAL FLAG CARRIER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMMAD SAID HERE TONIGHT.

HE SAID ALREADY MAS, THE SMALLEST AIRLINE IN THIS REGION, IS FACING A LOT OF PROBLEMS IN GETTING RIGHTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO SURVIVE, YET + IT GETS BASHED LEFT AND RIGHT+ WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

COMMENTING ON THE MAS PROBLEM ON HIS RETURN FROM A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, HE RE-AFFIRMED HIS TAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CLOSE DOWN THE AIRLINE IF THE SITUATION +WARRANTS IT+.

HE SAID IF THE AIRLINE COMES TO A SITUATION WHEN IT CANNOT FUNCTION FURTHER, +THEN WHAT CAN WE DO EXCEPT TO CLOSE DOWN THE AIRLINE+, HE STRESSED.

HE SAID HE WAS NOT SAYING THAT + WE ARE CLOSING THE AIRLINE BECAUSE WE ARE NOT CAPABLE OF RUNNING A SMALL AIRLINE BUT IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS IT, THEN WE WILL CLOSE IT DOWN+.

—BERNAMA MORE 2209/BY

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+HOWEVER, WHAT THE SITUATION IS WILL HAVE TO STUDIED+.

HE ADDED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT IN THE PROCESS OF ASKING FOR BETTER PAY WORKERS WERE DESTROYING THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY.

++PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT MALAYSIA CANNOT RUN A SMALL AIRLINE+, HE EXPLAINED.

HE FELT THAT MOST OF THE WORKERS ARE +GOOD PEOPLE+ UNFORTUNATELY THERE WERE SOME WHO WERE OUT TO DESTROY MAS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CITED THE GOOD SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE CABIN CREW OF THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DURING THE 14-HOUR NON-STOP FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK TO TOKYO.

+THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A NATION BECOMES GREAT BECAUSE ITS PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO WORK HARD+, HE ADDED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT HE WAS ALSO GIVEN FIRST CLASS SERVICE BY THE MAS CABIN CREW FROM TOKYO TO KUALA LUMPUR AND +IT IS SAD INDEED IF THE COUNTRY WERE TO LOSE THIS+. —BERNAMA MORE 2234/BY

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE GROUNDING THE DC -10 AIRCRAFT AS THE RESULT OF THE SUSPENSION OF MAS INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

+THOUGH YOU MIGHT AGREE WITH THE SUSPENSION, I WOULD RATHER SPEND THE \$100 MILLION OR SO FOR THE DC10 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND BETTERMENT OF THE KAMPUNGS AND THE RURAL PEOPLE+, HE SAID.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH HE WAS YET TO BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST MAS SITUATION, HE WAS +VERY UNHAPPY+ OVER THE DISPUTE.

DATUK MAHATHIR WAS IN THE UNITED STATES ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON THE SOCIO-POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE SEMINAR HELD AT THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY WERE ALSO ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND PAKISTAN.

HE ALSO VISITED NEW YORK TO BRIEF WOULD-BE INVESTORS ON THE LATES SITUATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA FOLLOWING THE DOWN-FALL OF THE POL POT GOVERNMENT IN KAMPUCHEA.

HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT DESPITE WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN KAMPUCHEA, THESE INVESTORS WERE STILL EAGER TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA. —BERNAMA 2314/BY