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JOHORE BAHRU, MAY 21 (BERNAMA)—DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MEASURES TO ATTRACT MORE EXPORTERS TO USE THE PASIR GUDANG PORT HERE.

THE MEASURES INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF PERMANENT BUNKERING FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-LANE CARRIAGE WAY AND A RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN THE PORT AND THE JOHORE BAHRU TOWN.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER A VISIT TO THE PORT THIS EVENING THAT THE BUNKERING FACILITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED BY PETRONAS.

HE SAID AT PRESENT SUCH FACILITIES WERE BEING PROVIDED BY PETRONAS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS BY OBTAINING OIL FROM SINGAPORE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE PORT ENJOY ADEQUATE INFRA-STRUCTURE.

HE SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE LACK OF INTEREST AMONG EXPORTERS TO USE THE PORT WAS THE SHORTAGE OF EXPORT MATERIALS FOR HANDLING THERE.

SHIPPING COMPANIES WOULD TEND TO LOSE IF THEY WERE TO RETURN HOME EMPTY AFTER UNLOADING THEIR GOODS. — BERNAMA MORE 2125/1B

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MAHATHIR 2 JOHORE BAHRU

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AT THE PORT HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR VISITED THE DESARU TOURISM PROJECT, ABOUT 60 MILES FROM HERE.

HE WAS ENCOURAGED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE JOHORE TENGGARA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OR KEJORA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS OF OTHER PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AUTHORITY, ESPECIALLY ITS OIL PALM PROJECT IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY WITH FELDA.

ON THE POLLUTION PROBLEM ALONG THE DESARU BEACH, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADVISED SHIPPING COMPANIES TO AVOID SERVICING THEIR SHIPS IN THE AREA. — BERNAMA 2133/1B