

MAHATHIR-WEALTHY
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ALOR STAR, MARCH 8 (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED) TONIGHT URGED THE RICH MALAYS AND THOSE WHO OBTAINED WEALTH FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY TO REPAY THEIR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT BY SERVICES TO THE SOCIETY, PARTY AND NATION.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THEM OBTAIN WEALTH AND THE TIME HAS COME FOR THEM NOW TO ASSIST THE NEEDY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER WHERE HE RECEIVED CHECKS TOTTALLING \$100,000 FROM MORE THAN 20 MEMBERS OF THE KEDAH MALAY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FOR THE KUBANG PASU UMNO DIVISION BUILDING FUND AT WISMA NEGERI HERE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FOUR-STOREY BUILDING COSTING \$780,000 WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN THIS YEAR AND COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS. SO FAR ABOUT \$150,000 HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FOR THE PROJECT.

HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE MALAY IN THE COUNTRY WHO HAS NOT TASTED THE FRUITS OF THE STRUGGLE BY UMNO.

—BERNAMA MORE 2359/AH

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BECAUSE OF THIS IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL UMNO MEMBERS TO ALSO DONATE TOWARDS THE BUILDING FUND FOR THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS TO BE BUILT IN KUALA LUMPUR, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ABOUT \$7.2 MILLION COULD BE COLLECTED FOR THE FUND IF EVERYONE OF THE MORE THAN 600,000 MEMBERS DONATED A DOLLAR EACH.

HE CRITICISED MALAYS WHO HAD THE HABIT OF ASKING FOR DONATIONS FROM THE RICH OF OTHER RACES WHENEVER THEY WANTED TO PUT UP A BUILDING.

SUCH AN ATTITUDE SHOULD BE AVOIDED, FOR THOSE WHO DONATED, MAY ASK FOR FAVOURS IN RETURN.

EARLIER, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR, DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN URGED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO INCREASE THE FACILITIES FOR LOANS TO MALAY ENTREPRENEURS WHO WERE SHORT OF CAPITAL TO UNDERTAKE BUSINESS.

HE URGED BANKS TO PAY MORE IMPORTANCE TO THE VIABILITY OF THE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY MALAYS RATHER THAN THE ITEMS MORTGAGED.

—BERNAMA 0005/AH