

MAHATHIR-BRIEFING

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(P)

MALACCA, APRIL 25 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA WAS AT A STAGE WHERE SHE COULD ACHIEVE EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT OWING TO THE STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

THE COUNTRY WAS ABLE TO CARRY OUT ANY PROJECT THAT WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE IT HAD SUFFICIENT FUNDS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING AT SERI MELAKA HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO MALACCA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1978 WAS EIGHT PER CENT COMPARED TO FIVE PER CENT IN JAPAN WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN THIS REGION.

HE SAID: +THIS SHOWS THAT MALAYSIA HAS THE ENERGY SOURCES TO ENCOURAGE MORE INTENSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH, ESPECIALLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. — BERNAMA MORE 1545/SZ

NO55 (F)

MAHATHIR-BRIEFING 2 MALACCA

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, WAS BRIEFED BY CHIEF MINISTER ENCIK MOHAMED ADIB HAJI ADAM, STATE SECRETARY HAJI ZAINAL ABIDIN DATUK HAJI NORDIN AND STATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ENCIK FAUZI ABDUL RAHMAN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT STRIVE TO LOOK FOR UNDERGROUND SOURCES OF WATER TO HELP OVERCOME THE SHORTAGE OF WATER FOR PADI CULTIVATION.

WATER WAS BEING HARNESSSED FROM 200 TO 300 FEET UNDER THE GROUND IN KEDAH AFTER SIMILAR EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR PETTY TRADERS UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

HE SAID THIS WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO HELP AS MANY OF THE POOR AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THEY ALSO HAD A RIGHT TO THE NATION'S WEALTH. — BERNAMA MORE 1555/SZ

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PROBLEMS OF PETTY TRADERS WERE NOT CONFINED TO GETTING A SITE TO RUN THEIR BUSINESS.

+MANY OF THEIR PROBLEMS HAVE TO BE OVERCOME, AND WITH A RESPONSIBLE, DEDICATED AND HONEST ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS OF PETTY TRADERS COULD BE OVERCOME IF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS WORKED TOGETHER AND UNDERSTOOD WELL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS FULFILLING THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS.

ENCIK MOHAMED ADIB, IN HIS BRIEFING, SAID THE HOPES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT DEPENDED ON THREE MAJOR PROJECTS THAT WERE BEING PLANNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THEY WERE THE PETRONAS OIL REFINERY THAT COULD PROVIDE JOBS FOR ABOUT 30,000 PEOPLE, A LOG POOL IN TANJUNG KELING AND THE 106-MILE STRETCH OF THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY FROM SEREMBAN TO AIR HITAM THROUGH SIMPANG EMPAT AND JASIN. — BERNAMA MORE 1635/SZ
MAHATHIR-BRIEFING 4 MALACCA

ENCIK MOHAMED ADIB SAID THAT FROM THE LOCATION VIEWPOINT MALACCA WAS IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION.

+THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS HALFWAY BETWEEN THE PASIR GUDANG INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN JOHORE AND THE KLANG VALLEY.

+AS A RESULT, POTENTIAL INVESTORS SELECT ONE OF THESE TWO AREAS AND IGNORE THE STATE,+ HE SAID.

ENCIK MOHAMED ADIB HOPED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION COULD IMPROVE THE FACILITIES AT THE BATU BERENDAM AIRPORT SO THAT MORE FOREIGN INVESTORS COULD BE ATTRACTED TO THE STATE.

HAJI ZAINAL ABIDIN SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS FOCUSING ON AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIALISATION AND TOURISM IN EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1640/SZ

MAHATHIR-BRIEFING 5 MALACCA

HE SAID 23,000 ACRES WOULD BE DOUBLE-CROPPED AND 10,000 ACRES SINGLE-CROPPED WITH PADI AND CULTIVATED WITH CASH CROPS.

ENCIK FAUZI SAID \$25 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON THE SECOND STAGE OF THE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN DURIAN DAUN. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, ABOUT EIGHT MILLION GALLONS OF WATER WOULD BE SUPPLIED DAILY TO CONSUMERS IN THE STATE.

THIS AFTERNOON, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ATTENDED FRIDAY PRAYERS AT THE TRANQUERAH MOSQUE.

LATER, HE AND DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH HAD LUNCH WITH THE YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI TUN SYED HAJI ZAHIRUDDIN BIN SYED HASSAN AND TOH PUAN HAJJAH HALIMAH. — BERNAMA 1643/SZ