

KOTA KINABALU, JUNE 19 (BERNAMA) - DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN IN SABAH.

HE SAID SABAH HAD ACHIEVED 90 PER CENT OF THE TARGETS SET UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN AND HE HOPED TO SEE A SIMILAR RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THIS CRITERION WOULD NOT SOLELY JUSTIFY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN ALLOCATING FUNDS TO THIS STATE UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

AT A BRIEFING ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE GIVEN BY CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH THIS AFTERNOON, SABAH GIVEN BY CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH THIS AFTERNOON, SABAH REQUESTED A SUM OF \$8,700 MILLION FOR THE STATE UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

THIS IS A THREE-FOLD INCREASE OVER THE ALLOCATION FOR THE STATE FOR THE THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN AT \$2,798 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ANY DECISION TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO A STATE WAS BASED NOT ONLY ON THE STATE'S PERFORMANCE BUT ALSO IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHER FATORS SUCH AS THE NEEDS OF OTHER AREAS WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD TO VIEW IN A TOTAL PICTURE.

—BERNAMA MORE 1925/BY

MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 KOTA KINABALU ㄟ'ㄟ'ㄟ'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS BRIEFED ON THE OVERALL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF SABAH SO FAR UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN INCLUDING THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY BODIES SUCH AS THE SABAH FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SAFODA), THE KORPORASI PEMBANGUNAN DESA (KPD), THE SABAH MARKETING AUTHORITY (SAMA) AND THE KOPERASI JELATA SABAH BERHAD (KOJASA).

HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE STATE'S ACTIVITIES IN THE EXPLOITATION OF COPPER, TIMBER, METHANOL, PETROLEUM AND PULP AND PAPER PROJECTS.

DATUK HARRIS IN HIS BRIEFING SAID THAT THE SABAH STATE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW PREPARING REPORTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN AND HOPED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GENEROUS IN GRANTING HALF OF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED WHILE THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OTHER HALF.

HE ADDED THAT SABAH NEEDED THE SPECIFIED AMOUNT TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENT RATE AND ALSO TO BE ON PAR WITH THE OTHER STATES IN MALAYSIA.

HE ADDED THAT SABAH DID NOT ACTUALLY FACE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS AS FAR AS DEVELOPMENT WAS CONCERNED EXCEPT FOR THE LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER ESPECIALLY DOCTORS, TEACHERS, SURVEYORS AND OTHER TRAINED PERSONNEL. —BERNAMA 1930/BY

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MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 KOTA KINABALU ㄟ'ㄟ'ㄟ'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, DURING THE BRIEFING, REQUESTED SEVERAL CLARIFICATIONS ESPECIALLY IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WHICH HE SAID NEEDED TO BE STUDIED IN DEPTH TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIABILITY AND PROFITABILITY.

HE WAS ALSO TOLD OF PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PUBLIC WHEN TRAVELLING BY AIR BETWEEN TOWNS IN SABAH AND IN TURN REQUESTED THAT A PAPER BE PREPARED TO PRESENT THE MATTER FOR HIS STUDY.

THE PAPER SHOULD INCLUDE STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS WHO GO INTO SINGAPORE FROM KOTA KINABALU AND THEN TRAVEL FROM THERE OVERSEAS.

AFTER THE BRIEFING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS PRESENT AT THE SIGNING OF THREE AGREEMENTS - BETWEEN SAFODA AND THE SAUDI ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A JOINT-VENTURE TO EXTRACT AND PROCESS TIMBER, BETWEEN SAFODA AND RATTAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES SDN. BHD. TO DEVELOP AN AREA OF 10,000 ACRES IN KINABATANGAN AND BETWEEN THE SABAH FOUNDATION AND FIMA TO UNDERTAKE A JOINT VENTURE TO GROW COCOA IN THE EAST COAST. 137

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, AS FIMA CHAIRMAN, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF FIMA. —BERNAMA 1935/BY