

MAHATHIR 元'元'元'

LABUAN, JUNE 23 (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY SABAH COULD POSSIBLY BE THE PREMIER STATE IN MALAYSIA IN VIEW OF ITS VAST POTENTIALS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE STATE'S LEADERS KEPT THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN MIND AND STRIVED TO UPLIFT THEIR LIVING STANDARD, SABAH WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AT A RAPID RATE.

HE SAID THAT IN GENERAL HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN SABAH, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL SECTOR WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO INTRODUCE VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT TO THE STATE.

ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW THE EXISTING METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL WEALTH TO STATES, HE SAID:

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SINCE WE HAVE ACCEPTED PLANNING TO RE-DISTRIBUTE WEALTH ALONG MORE EQUITABLE LINES, THERE ARE AREAS AND GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE UPLIFTMENT THEY SHOULD BE GETTING.+

HE QUOTED THE EXAMPLE OF NABAWAN (IN SABAH'S INTERIOR) WHERE HE WAS TOLD DURING A VISIT YESTERDAY THAT THERE WERE STILL PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY INSPITE OF THE WEALTH OF SABAH. —
BERNAMA MORE 1837/YF

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+IN A STATE LIKE SABAH WHICH IS RICH, IT IS STRANGE TO FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND WE CAN ASSUME THAT THEY MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE DOING CERTAIN THINGS WHICH APPEAR TO GIVE SOME RESULTS, WE ARE CONSTANTLY ASKING OURSELVES WHETHER WHAT WE ARE DOING IS GETTING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF RESULTS.

+IF WE FIND THAT WE ARE NOT GETTING THE FULL BENEFITS OF ALL OUR PLANNING, THEN WE WILL REVISE THE PLANS AND APPROACH THE PROBLEMS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE, DEVISE NEW METHODS AND DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT WEALTH DISTRIBUTION IN MALAYSIA IS EQUITABLE.+

ON THE RECENT ELECTORAL PACT AMONG USNO, PASOK AND SCCP IN SABAH, HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE COALITION BUT DID NOT KNOW ITS PLANS. 144

THIS MUST BE STUDIED IN GREAT DETAIL WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION IN FULL VIEW. — BERNAMA MORE 1840/YF

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT HE WITNESSED FIVE AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN SABAH AND FOREIGN INVESTORS AND THESE REFLECTED THE URGENT EFFORTS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPMENT.

THE FIVE AGREEMENTS WOULD BRING A TOTAL OF \$1,070 MILLION IN INVESTMENTS TO SABAH, INCLUDING \$325 MILLION FOR THE SPONGE IRON JOINT VENTURE PROJECT WITH DAEWOO INDUSTRIAL COMPANY OF SOUTH KOREA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TODAY WITNESSED THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BY SABAH SHIPBUILDING SDN. BHD., PERMODALAN BUMIPUTRA AND THE RAYMOND GROUP OF COMPANIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE PROJECT IS TO FABRICATE MARINE AND OFFSHORE STRUCTURES AND CREATE A BASE FROM WHICH TO PERFORM MARINE AND OFFSHORE ENGINEERING.

ON THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER FACED BY THE STATE, HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP OUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT SABAH'S SHARE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT WOOD BY MALAYSIAN TRADE PROMOTION MISSIONS WOULD NOT BE A SMALL PORTION BUT IT WOULD NOT BE TOO LARGE EITHER THAT OTHER STATE COULD NOT GET THEIR SHARE. — BERNAMA 1845/FP

'O' 'O' FIFTH PARA TO READ FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD... RPT GOVERNMENT