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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SUGGESTED TONIGHT A REGIONAL APPROACH BY ASEAN TO RESOURCE UTILISATION AND MANAGEMENT TO HELP MEMBER NATIONS TO BETTER PLAN THE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE APPROACH COULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL CO-OPERATION.

OPENING THE ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONVENTION ON RESOURCES, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, HE SAID ASEAN, WELL-ENDOWED WITH ANTURAL RESOURCES, SHOULD USE +THIS STRENGTH+ THROUGH A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TOWARDS THE PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.

HE STRESSED THAT SINCE ASEAN WAS A VIABLE ECONOMIC GROUPING COMMITTEE TO CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR PEOPLES, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR IT TO EMBARK ON A COLLECTIVE STOCK-TAKING OF ITS RESOURCES AND TO PLAN FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS IMPERATIVE BECAUSE OF THE DISPARITY IN RESOURCE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS -- ALTHOUGH ON A SMALL SCALE-- BETWEEN THE URBAN AND RURAL SECTORS OF ASEAN COUNTRIES. --BERNAMA MORE 2150/BY

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ASEAN MEMBERS, TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE NEED FOR BETTER RESOURCE ALLOCATION WITHIN SECTORS OF THEIR ECONOMIES AS WELL AS THE DELIBERATE CONSERVATION OF THEIR NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO AVOID ADOPTING THE WASTEFUL CONSUMPTION HABITS AND LIFESTYLES OF DEVELOPED NATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR LAMENTED THE DEVELOPED NATIONS STEADFASTNESS TO THEIR TRADITIONAL VIEWS OF THE POPULATION-RESOURCES EQUATION AS A PROBLEM OF 'TOO MANY PEOPLE AND AS TO HOW TO REDUCE THE NUMBER'.

+IT IS THIS TRADITIONAL RESPONSE WHICH BETRAYS THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THESE COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +THERE IS STILL THE TENDENCY TO VIEW THE RESOURCES-POPULATION EQUATION PURELY FROM THE DEMAND SIDE AND IF THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS CAN BE REDUCED THE EQUATION SHOULD STRIKE A HAPPY BALANCE.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 2224/ZCM

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STILL CONTENDED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT ONLY BE LOOKED FROM THE DEMAND SIDE BUT ALSO FROM THE SUPPLY SIDE.

+THIS CAN BE DONE BY ATTAINING AN EQUALIBRIUM THROUGH THE DEVISING OF WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE UTILISATION OF OUR AVAILABLE RESOURCES.+

HE SAID THE TRADITIONAL RESORT TO DEVELOPMENT AID AS PRACTISED BY MOST ADVANCED NATIONS RAN COUNTER TO THE CURRENT ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN THEY WISHED TO BE RID OF A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON CHARITY AND DEPENDENCE ON DEVELOPED NATIONS.

THE THREE-DAY CONVENTION BEGINS TOMORROW AND 34 DELEGATES FROM THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE ATTENDING.

MALAYSIA IS REPRESENTED BY A 12-MEMBER DELEGATION.

PRESENT AT TONIGHT'S CEREMONY WERE THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEWAN NEGARA, TUN OMAR YOKE LIN'ONG, SPEAKER OF THE DEWAN RAKYAT TAN SRI SYED NASIR ISMAIL AND CABINET MINISTERS. -- BERNAMA 2228/ZCM