

NO96: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIME

BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN: ②

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 26 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE A COMMON TIME ZONE FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY, INSTEAD OF TWO DIFFERENT ZONES NOW USED IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND SABAH AND SARAWAK.

DISCLOSING THIS HERE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE EFFECTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MOVE WERE BEING STUDIED.

+IT IS JUST A MATTER OF FIXING IT. TIME IS A VERY ARTIFICIAL THING,+ HE SAID IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH DAY IN OFFICE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND SABAH AND SARAWAK TIMES WAS NOT ONLY A DIVISIVE FACTOR BUT ALSO NOT VERY ACCURATE.

+TIME ZONES ARE NORMALLY FIXED ON HOURLY INTERVALS. OURS IS AT HALF-HOURLY INTERVAL,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 2113/ZCM

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IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT JUST USE THE SABAH-SARAWAK TIME TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY.

+OUR COURSE PEOPLE MAY COMPLAIN THAT WITH THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY. BUT THE QUESTION IS NOT HAVING TO WAKE UP EARLY BUT RATHER GOING TO BED EARLY.+

+WAKING UP AT 6.30, 7 OR 8 A.M. IS JUST A MATTER OF HABIT,+ HE ARGUED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AN EARLIER TIME ZONE WOULD MEAN THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE MORE DAYLIGHT TO DO THEIR BUSINESS.

+IT WILL ALSO MEAN THAT YOU WILL HAVE MORE DAYLIGHT TO PLAY GOLF,+ HE SAID JOKINGLY.

ON THE CLOCKING-IN SYSTEM FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EVERYONE ACCEPTED IT AS IT DID NOT ONLY DISCIPLINE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS BUT ALSO TAUGHT THEM TO BE PUNCTUAL. -- BERNAMA MORE 2122/ZCM

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+BEING PUNCTUAL IS A SIGN OF NEATNESS. I LIKE TIDINESS BECAUSE TIDENESS HAS GOT ALL KINDS OF IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF HEALTH, IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENT, QUALITY OF LIFE AND SO ON,+ HE STRESSED. -- BERNAMA 2123/ZCM