

NO72 (F)
MAHATHIR-PERAK
BM

IPOH, OCT. 28³¹ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY URGED THE PEOPLE TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO BOOST NATIONAL PRODUCTION WITH THE ENSUING BENEFITS TO BE ENJOYED ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS BY ALL.

HE SAID THAT GENUINE HARD WORK ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE WAS NEEDED FOR FULL EXPLOITATION OF THE COUNTRY'S RESOURCES AND WEALTH POTENTIAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ADDRESSING A CROWD WHICH TURNED UP AT THE AIRPORT HERE TO WELCOME HIM AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH. THIS IS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERAK SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD PERFORMED CREDITABLY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, A FACT WHICH HAD ENABLED MALAYSIANS TO CONTINUE ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS IN RECESSION.

ON THE 1982 BUDGET, HE SAID IT WAS A BOUNTY FOR THE PEOPLE. BEFORE THE BUDGET WAS UNVEILED, SPECULATION WAS RIFE THAT SEVERAL BURDENSOME TAX MEASURES WOULD BE IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE.

BUT THE BUDGET PROVED TO BE A +SOFT+ ONE IN WHICH CONCESSIONS WERE GIVEN IN SEVERAL AREAS OF EXCISE AND DUTY. --BERNAMA MORE 1900/MD

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THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AIMED AT BRINGING PROSPERITY TO ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY AND TO POINT OUT TO THE GOVERNMENT ANY WEAKNESSES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY.

ON THE WELCOME GIVEN TO HIM, HE SAID HE WAS TOUCHED BY THE UNITY DEMONSTRATED BY ALL COMMUNITIES AND HOPED THE UNITY WOULD ENDURE TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

PERAK MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI WAN MOHAMED WAN TEH, IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS, EXPRESSED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF PERAK FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE TURNED UP AT THE IPOH AIRPORT TO GREET DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH WHO ARRIVED AT ABOUT 2.45 P.M.

THE WELCOMING CEREMONY WAS HEADED BY DATUK SERI WAN MOHAMAD.

ALSO PRESENT WERE LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTER DATUK RICHARD HO, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK MAK HON KAM, COMMUNITY LEADERS, BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS. --BERNAMA 1805/MD