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MAHATHIR-DINNER

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IPOH, OCT. 28 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SEJI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EMPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SOUVENIRS AND GIFTS BUSINESS FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S ABOLITION OF TAXES ON THE ITEMS.

HE SAID THE ABOLITION OF TAXES ON WATCHES, CIGARETTE LIGHTER AND FOUNTAIN PENS, ANNOUNCED IN THE 1982 BUDGET LAST WEEK, WAS NOT ONLY AIMED AT EXPANDING THE TOURISM INDUSTRY BUT ALSO TO CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

+WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS IN THIS SECTOR, MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE CREATED+, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A STATE DINNER HERE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO TURN MALAYSIA INTO AN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY, RESPECTED BY THE WHOLE WORLD.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE COUNTRY SO FAR HAD GIVEN RISE TO VARIOUS JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT RESULTING IN LABOUR SHORTAGE IN CERTAIN SECTORS. --BERNAMA MORE 2350/MD

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+THE INCREASED DEMAND IN THE LABOUR FORCE HAS AUTOMATICALLY INCREASED THE SALARY LEVEL IN THE COUNTRY+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS FORTUNATE AS MOST OF HER PEOPLE WERE MODERATE IN THEIR ATTITUDE.

AS A RESULT OF THIS, HE SAID, POLITICAL STABILITY WAS GUARANTEED THUS ENABLING +US TO FORM GOVERNMENT AFTER GOVERNMENT+.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH RECEIVED THEIR INDEPENDENCE ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS MALAYSIA, THIS COUNTRY HAD ACHIEVED TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC PROGRESS, THOUGH THE WORLD AT LARGE WAS FACING ECONOMIC RECESSION.

+OUR LIVES NOW ARE FAR BETTER AFTER INDEPENDENCE, COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE LIVING STANDARDS HAVE DROPPED+, HE SAID.

EARLIER, PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI WAN MOHAMED WAN TEH PLEDGED THAT THE STATE WOULD GIVE ITS FULLEST SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT, SMOOTH AND CLEAN ADMINISTRATION.

--BERNAMA 2355/MD