

NO09 (F)
MAHATHIR-FENCE

BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

IPOH, OCT. 29 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO EXTEND THE EXISTING BORDER SECURITY FENCES ALONG THE MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER TO COVER THE BORDER LINES IN PERAK.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO DISCLOSED THIS HERE TODAY, SAID THAT THE FENCES, MEANT TO CHECK SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNIST TERRORIST INFILTRATION, HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE.

SINCE THEIR ERECTION SOMETIMES AGO ALONG THE KEDAH-PERLIS-THAI BORDER ALONG CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR COLLECTION OF TAXES SUBSTANTIALLY.

+INCREASE IN TERMS OF TAX COLLECTION HAS BEEN OVER 1000 PERCENT,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THIS MORNING AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERAK.

THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT, THE GOVERNMENT SAW IT FIT TO EXTEND THE FENCES TO COVER THE PERAK-THAI BORDER.

ALLOCATION FOR THE EXTENSION PROJECT EXPECTED TO COST ABOUT \$10 MILLION WOULD BE MADE ONCE THE INITIAL SURVEY WORK WAS COMPLETED, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1200/SZ

NO10 (F)
MAHATHIR - FENCE 2 IPOH

ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE STATE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SITUATION HAD GENERALLY IMPROVED THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS.

THERE WAS A GENERAL DECLINE IN COMMUNIST TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND MANY OF THEM HAD SURRENDERED TO THE AUTHORITIES.

+CASES LIKE BOOBY-TRAP EXPLOSIONS HAVE ALSO DECREASED,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE WHOLE THE SITUATION IN PERAK IS CALM AND SECURED,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED THAT THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, NOW NEARING COMPLETION, WOULD BE WELL-PROTECTED WHEN IT IS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

HE SAID SECURITY FORCES WOULD BE LOCATED AT STRATEGIC POINTS AND IF NECESSARY SPECIAL PATROLS WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

- BERNAMA MORE 1202/BW

NO11 (F)
MAHATHIR-FENCE 2 IPOH

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING ON THE STATE DEVELOPMENT, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE STATE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS +ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE IN TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION.+

HE SAID MONEY FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE BUT THE MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OUGHT TO BE IMPROVED.

ASKED WHETHER HE INTENDED TO RELINQUISH HIS POST AS THE PERAK UMNO LIAISON CHAIRMAN, AS HAD BEEN WIDELY SPECULATED, HE SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS DECISION SOON.

+I'LL TELL THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ONCE I MAKE THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO RELINQUISH THE POST,+ HE SAID.

HE DECLINE TO COMMENT ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT THE LATEST POSITION OF PAHANG MENTRI BESAR, HAJI ABDUL RAHIM BAKAR.

+ YOU WILL KNOW WHEN THE TIME COMES,+ HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA 1205/SZ -