

NO77: (F)
MAHATHIR-STATES *' *' *

KOTA KINABALU, NOV. 17 (BERNAMA) — PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT SABAH AND SARAWAK SHOULD NOT HAVE THE ATTITUDE THAT THERE WAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY HAD SIMILAR STATUS AS THE OTHER STATES.

"ALL THE STATES IN MALAYSIA HAVE GOT THIS RELATION OR THAT RELATION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IT IS NOT CONFINED TO SABAH OR SARAWAK ALONE.

"BUT THE MAIN THING IS NOT TO HAVE AN ATTITUDE THAT THERE IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SABAH AND SARAWAK AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SABAH.

"SABAH AND SARAWAK ARE LIKE THE OTHER STATES EXCEPT THAT WE GIVE CERTAIN SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS BECAUSE THESE TWO STATES CAME IN LATER AND ARE SEPARATED BY THE SEA FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF ACTIVITIES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA."

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SOONER THE PEOPLE THOUGHT IN TERMS OF BEING MALAYSIANS AND LESS OF BEING SABAHANS, SARAWAKIANS OR JOHOREANS, THE BETTER IT WOULD BE FOR NATIONAL

INTEGRATION.

ON THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN SABAH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE DID NOT COME HERE TO DISPLACE THE LOCAL PEOPLE OF JOBS. --
BERNAMA MORE 1743/LK

NO78: (F)
MAHATHIR-STATES 2 KOTA KINABALU *' *' *

HE SAID THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF TECHNICAL PEOPLE AND SENIOR POSITIONS IN SABAH AND IF THESE PEOPLE WERE AVAILABLE THEY SHOULD COME TO THE STATE TO WORK.

+ALREADY SABAH HAVE PINCHED QUITE A LOT OF OUR MEN. WE SEND GENERALS AND POLICE OFFICERS HERE AND THEY RETIRE AND STAY ON IN SABAH, + HE ADDED JOKINGLY.

ON THE REQUEST FROM THE SABAH GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASED FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SUCH A REQUEST HAD NOT ONLY COME FROM SABAH BUT FROM ALL STATES SO MUCH SO THAT EVEN PERLIS - THE SMALLEST STATE - WAS NOT HAPPY WITH ITS ALLOCATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SABAH HAD BEEN ALLOCATED ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHUNKS IN THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN AND THE EARLIER PLANS BECAUSE THE STATE NEEDED LOT OF MONEY TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT IT COST A LITTLE MORE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE ALLOCATIONS WERE MADE ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE FUNDS AND +WE CAN'T GIVE MORE THAN WHAT WE CAN AFFORD.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1749/LK

NO86: (F)
MAHATHIR-STATES 3 KOTA KINABALU *'*'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SOME STATES COULD NOT SPEND ALL THE MONEY ALLOCATED TO THEM BUT IN THE CASE OF SABAH, DUE TO ITS RAPID DEVELOPMENT, EVERY CENT ALLOCATED HAD BEEN SPENT.

+I CONGRATULATE THEM FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY BUT I CAN'T GIVE THEM MORE THAN THAT,+ HE SAID IN REFERENCE TO SABAH.

ASKED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER CASINO BEING OPERATED, PROBABLY IN SABAH, THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO HIS RECENT STATEMENT IN GENTING HIGHLANDS IN WHICH HE SAID ONE CASINO IN THE COUNTRY WAS +ONE TOO MANY.+

+I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THE NEXT DAY GENTING HIGHLANDS SHARES WENT DOWN OR NOT. I DON'T MEAN TO TAKE AWAY THE LICENCE, AT LEAST NOT JUST YET, BUT I THINK THAT A COUNTRY THAT HAS TO DEPEND UPON GAMBLING TO SURVIVE IS A VERY BANKRUPT COUNTRY, BANKRUPT OF IDEAS,+ HE SAID.

+WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE MONEY OUT OF SOME PEOPLE LOSING THEIR SHIRTS AND I KNOW SOME PEOPLE TELL ME THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER VISITING CASINOS,+ --
BERNAMA MORE 1809/LK

NO87 (F)
MAHATHIR-STATES 4 KOTA KINABALU *'*'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT WANT MALAYSIANS TO SUFFER FROM SUCH STRESSES AND STRAINS AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BAD FOR MALAYSIA OR SABAH TO HAVE CASINO.

SABAH, HE SAID, WAS DOING EXTREMELY WELL ECONOMICALLY WITH ITS OIL, GAS AND TIMBER RESOURCES AND HE DID NOT THINK THAT A CASINO LICENCE WOULD HELP THE STATE MUCH.

DATUK BERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE MOST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE PRESENT CASINO AT GENTING HIGHLANDS CAME TO ABOUT \$50 MILLION, +WHICH IS PEANUTS IN TERMS OF SABAH.+

+OF COURSE IF WE GIVE 100 CASINO LICENCES, WE WON'T GET ANY MONEY AT ALL BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE COMPETING AND CUTTING EACH OTHER'S THROAT.+ -- BERNAMA 1813/LK