

NO32 (F)
MAHATHIR-TIME 1'1'1'
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 16⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- PENINSULAR MALAYSIA WILL GREET THE NEW YEAR THIS TIME HALF-AN-HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL -- AS IT SWITCHES OVER TO THE SABAH AND SARAWAK TIME ZONE AT 11.30 P.M. ON DEC. 31.

AT THAT MOMENT, PENINSULAR MALAYSIA'S TIME WILL BECOME MIDNIGHT, SAME AS THAT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO ANNOUNCED THE CHANGE TODAY SAID THAT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD TIME, THE WHOLE COUNTRY WOULD COME UNDER THE GMT+8 TIME ZONE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE MONTHLY CABINET MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE, HE SAID THAT TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION HAD LEGAL CONNOTATION, AN ACT ON THE MATTER WOULD BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT.

— BERNAMA MORE 1415/SZ

NO36 (F)
MAHATHIR-TIME 2 KUALA LUMPUR 1'1'1'

BECAUSE THE DEWAN RAKYAT HAD BEEN ADJOURNED, THE ACT WOULD BE DEBATED FIRST BY THE DEWAN NEGARA AT ITS CURRENT SESSION ON FRIDAY.

THE DEWAN RAKYAT WOULD HAVE A SPECIAL SESSION ON DEC. 21 TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

AFTER THE TWO HOUSES HAD APPROVED IT, THE ACT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG FOR THE ROYAL ASSENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN PREPARING TO MEET THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON TIME ZONE ON JAN. 1, ALL CONCERNED SUCH AS THE MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS), MALAYAN RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT OPERATORS WOULD REVISE THEIR SCHEDULES.

FOR EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND ITS AGENCIES, THEY WOULD BEGIN WORK AT 8 A.M. (7.30 A.M. PRESENT TIME).

— BERNAMA MORE 1420/SZ

NO39:

(F)

CORRECTIONS : 1'1'1'

RE ITEM NO: 32 +MAHATHIR-TIME+ FOURTH PARA... PLSE SUBSTITUTE WORD +MONTHLY+ WITH +WEEKLY+ PARA SHLD READ... AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEKLY RPT WEEKLY CABINET MEETING. -- BERNAMA 1442/1B

NO40: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIME 3 KUALA LUMPUR

SCHOOLS WOULD ALSO BEGIN AT TIMES EARLIER THAN NOW. THE NEW TIMES WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION, DATUK SER DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DECISION FOR SCHOOLS TO START EARLIER WAS AIMED AT PREVENTING SCHOOLCHILDREN AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LEAVING FOR SCHOOL AND OFFICE AT THE SAME TIME, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

THE MOVE WAS ALSO FELT TO BE GOOD AS THE SCHOOLCHILDREN COULD GO HOME EARLIER AND THOSE IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION WOULD HAVE RETURNED HOME BEFORE IT WAS DARK. HE ADDED.

+THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW EARLY THEY NEED TO ENTER SCHOOL AND THE MATTER IS BEING STUDIED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE WOULD OFFICIALLY INFORM THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT THE DECISION TO STANDARDISE TIME THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHEN HE VISITS THE REPUBLIC TOMORROW. -- BERNAMA MORE 1448/1B

NO41: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIME 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+IT IS UP TO THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT WHETHER IT WANTS TO FOLLOW US OR MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENT TIME,+ HE SAID.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE TIME-ZONE SWITCH A BIG MATTER AS THE COMPLETE CHANGE TO THE METRIC SYSTEM NEXT YEAR.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CARRY OUT AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN SO THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE PENINSULA WOULD NOT FACE PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD TIME.

HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHETHER THEY WANTED TO REVISE THEIR SCHEDULES BUT THE FACT WAS THAT THEY WOULD BECOME INVOLVED AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE. -- BERNAMA 1455/1B