

NO57: (F)  
PARLIAMENT-PETRONAS  
BM

218

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 21<sup>3</sup> (BERNAMA) -- THE SEA-BED OFF PAHANG HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF NEW AREAS FOR POSSIBLE OIL EXPLORATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

ANOTHER AREA WAS THE SEA-BED OFF SABAH AND SARAWAK, HE ADDED WHEN REPLYING TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK HASHIM ENDUT (BN-ULU MUDA) WHO WANTED TO KNOW IF THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN STATES WHICH WERE PRESENTLY NOT OIL PRODUCING.

THE HOUSE BROKE OUT INTO LAUGHTER WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THERE WERE NO PLANS TO LOOK FOR OIL IN KEDAH.

TO HAJI YUSUP MALIM KUNING (BN-PANTI), HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PAID ROYALTY OF FIVE PERCENT TO OIL-PRODUCING STATES.--  
BERNAMA MORE 1645/1B

NO85 (F)  
PARLIAMENT-PETRONAS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

REPLYING TO ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-KUALA LUMPUR BANDAR), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PETRONAS'S OIL PRODUCTION THIS YEAR WAS ESTIMATED AT 91.3 MILLION BARRELS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT UP TO ITS FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1980 PETRONAS HAD ATTAINED A NET PROFIT, AFTER TAXES, OF \$2,203.2 MILLION.

HE SAID THAT THE CORPORATION'S SUCCESSES IN THE RETAILING OF PETROLEUM INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF 21 SKID STATIONS, AVIATION FUEL FACILITIES AT SENAI, PENANG AND SUBANG AIRPORTS AND DIRECT SALES TO BIG CONSUMERS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY BOARD.

REGARDING PETROLEUM-BASED PROJECTS, TH SAID PETRONAS, AMOG OTHER THINGS, WAS BUILDING A LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT AND THE ASEAN UREA PROJECT IN BINTULU AND OIL REFINERIES IN TRENGGANU AND MALACCA.

IT WAS ALSO STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF SETTING UP OTHER PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS SUCH AS METHANOL PLANTS.

—BERNAMA MORE 1807/AN

NO86 (F)  
PARLIAMENT-PETRONAS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DISMISSED AN ALLEGATION BY ENCIK LEE KAW (DAP-KLUANG) THAT BIG OIL COMPANIES HAD CHANGED THEIR POLICIES AND NO LONGER WANTED TO SET UP OIL STATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW THE OIL COMPANIES HAD NOT BEEN AS ACTIVE IN SETTING UP PETROL STATIONS BECAUSE OF THE MARKET SITUATION.

PETRONAS, HE ADDED, WAS PLANNING TO SET UP MORE OF ITS OWN STATIONS BUT THIS WOULD TAKE TIME AND SO FAR IT HAD BUILT TWO.

REPLYING TO ENCIK P. PATTO (DAP-MENGLERBU), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS, DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, OF OVERPRODUCTION BY BIG COMPANIES WHICH WERE PARTNERS WITH PETRONAS WITHOUT THE LATTER'S KNOWLEDGE.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

TO A QUESTION BY ENCIK BAKRI RAIS (BN-PARIT), HE SAID PETRONAS DID NOT YET HAVE ITS OWN REFINERY AND HAD ITS OIL REFINED IN SINGAPORE AND ELSEWHERE.

—BERNAMA MORE 1810/AN

NO87 (F)  
PARLIAMENT-PETRONAS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

REPLYING TO ENCIK LEE LAM THYE AGAIN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN DIRECTIVES TO PETRONAS TO CUT DOWN ITS PRODUCTION.

TO QUESTION BY ENCIK LIM KIT SING (DAP-PETALING), HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO THIS THERE WAS A DIRECTIVE TO PETRONAS TO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTION.

THE DIRECTIVE WAS MADE AT THE TIME WHEN THE PRICE OF OIL HAD NOT RISEN, AND TO INCREASE REVENUE PRODUCTION HAD TO BE STEPPED UP, HE SAID.

—BERNAMA 1813/AN