

MAHATHIR-FMP 'a'a'a'

120

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 27 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN WILL GIVE GREATER IMPETUS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY NOW IN THE SECOND DECADE OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FMP WAS THE LARGEST EVER DRAWN UP IN THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT AND EXPENDITURE.

OF THE ESTIMATED \$102.6 BILLION OF INVESTMENT TO BE MADE UNDER THE PLAN, \$28.5 BILLION WOULD BE FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

THE BIG ALLOCATION WAS ALSO IN VIEW OF THE DEPRESSED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, HE ADDED WHEN SECONDING THE MOTION ON THE FMP TABLED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

— BERNAMA MORE 1728/ZCM

MAHATHIR-FMP 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION AND FINANCIAL STANDING REMAINED STRONG, AND THIS WAS APPRECIATED BY GLOBAL AGENCIES SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM WAS TO PERPETUATE THE SOUND STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE SO AS TO ENCOURAGE MORE INVESTMENT AND RETAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE OTHER NATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID RAPID DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER STABLE CONDITIONS AND WITH SOUND FISCAL POLICIES, AND THE RATE OF INFLATION HAD BEEN HELD TO LESS THAN 10 PER CENT.

THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT IN MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES WHERE THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS MUCH HIGHER. —BERNAMA MORE 18 6/MD

MAHATHIR-FMP 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE, UNDER FMP, TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMMES TO ELIMINATE POVERTY AND RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY ALTHOUGH IT HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN THIS AREA.

EFFORTS WOULD BE DIRECTED AT IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POOR SUCH AS SMALLHOLDERS, FISHERMEN IN THE EAST COAST AND IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, AND WORKERS OF VERY LOW INCOME.

THERE WERE ALSO PLANS TO HELP POOR HOUSEHOLDS IN TOWNS WHICH WERE BADLY HIT BY THE HIGH COST OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORT.

UNDER THE FMP, \$9,319 MILLION ALLOCATED TO ACHIEVE FULL UTILISATION OF MANPOWER, INCREASE THE EARNINGS OF THE LOW-INCOME GROUP AND PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THESE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID \$4,398 MILLION WAS SET ASIDE TO BOOST EFFORTS IN RESTRUCTURING SOCIETY. —BERNAMA MORE 1837/HM

N116 (F)
MAHATHIR-FMP 5 KUALA LUMPUR

REFERRING TO THE TRANSFER OF SHARES HELD IN TRUST BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BUMIPUTRAS, HE SAID THE MOVE WAS TO FULFIL PLEDGES MADE AT THE TIME THE DEP WAS FORMULATED.

IT WAS A HISTORIC MOVE, HE SAID, AND URGED BUMIPUTRAS TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL UNIT TRUST SCHEME FOR THE GOOD OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE SCHEME WAS FOR BUMIPUTRAS, OTHER MALAYSIANS ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THERE SHOULD NOT BE MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE MATTER AS THE CONCEPT OF RESTRUCTURING SOCIETY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE SCHEME WAS ACTUALLY PART OF THE EFFORT TOWARDS SOLIDARITY. —BERNAMA MORE 1350/MD

MAHATHIR-FMP 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE WERE CONSTANTLY EXPANDING AND THE NEP WAS NOT INTENDED AT UPSETTING THE "RICE BOWL" OF THOSE WHO WERE HARD WORKING.

ON INFRASTRUCTURE, HE SAID \$5,639.6 MILLION OR 14.4 PER CENT OF TOTAL ALLOCATIONS UNDER THE FMP WERE FOR IMPROVING AND EXPANDING BASIC FACILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE'S BENEFIT AND TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING (FOR WHICH \$2,992.8 MILLION HAD BEEN ALLOCATED) AND EFFORTS TO BRING PROGRESS TO LESS-DEVELOPED STATES.

HE OUTLINED PLANS TO INTENSIFY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCLUDED SETTING OF UP STEEL AND ALUMINIUM MILLS AND PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANTS. —BERNAMA MORE 1940/HM

N127 (F)
MAHATHIR-FMP 7 KUALA LUMPUR

ON SECURITY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NATION'S DEFENCE CAPACITY NEEDED TO BE ENHANCED TO MEET ANY EVENTUALITY ARISING FROM THE TROUBLED CONDITIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IMPLEMENTING THE FMP, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DISCARD OLD METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION AND DELEGATE POWERS TO OFFICERS ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

NEW PROCEDURES HAD BEEN FORMULATED FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND WHICH IN THE PAST HAD TAKEN TOO LONG AND DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS, HE SAID.

CONSISTENT WITH MALAYSIA'S ASPIRATION OF PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, ISLAMIC STATES AND COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. —BERNAMA 1948/MD

121