

MAHATHIR-HAWKERS
BM

217

BATU PAHAT, APRIL 25⁸¹ (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A BODY TO WHICH HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATIONS THAT CONCENTRATED ON MEMBERSHIP OF ANY PARTICULAR COMMUNITY COULD GET AFFILIATED.

SUCH A BODY WOULD HELP HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS GET BETTER AND OVERALL ATTENTION FOR THEIR VIEWS BECAUSE IT WOULD EMPHASISE COMMON PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

HE WAS OPENING THE 25TH DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATION HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS AS A SOCIETY THAT PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN HELPING TO REDUCE THE RATE OF INFLATION.

THEY COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY BECAUSE THEIR ACTIVITIES FORMED PART OF THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1308/LK

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IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ALLOCATED \$30 MILLION FOR THEM UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN AND INCREASED THE ALLOCATION TO \$50 MILLION UNDER THE FOURTH PLAN, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID THIS TO ASSIST THEM AND BUILD STALLS FOR THEM IN AN EFFORT TO ORGANISE THEIR ACTIVITIES AND, INDIRECTLY, RAISE THEIR LIVING STANDARD.

HE URGED PETTY TRADERS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE SHIFTING OF THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS TO MORE SUITABLE PLACES.

THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE NOT MEANT TO BURDEN HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS BUT WERE FOR THEIR COMMON GOOD.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REMINDED LOCAL AUTHORITIES NOT TO TAKE ARBITRARY ACTION AGAINST HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS, SUCH AS DEMOLISHING STALLS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. — BERNAMA MORE 1335/LK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATIONS AGAINST MAKING A POLITICAL ISSUE OF THE BIGGER ASSISTANCE THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED TO HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS OF THE COMMUNITY CONSIDERED TO BE NEEDY.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ACCEPTED A MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATION, ENCIK NG HANG CHAI. — BERNAMA 1338/LK