

MAHATHIR-TAXES

ALOR STAR, FEB. 26 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BURDEN THE ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH HIGH TAXES IN GETTING FUNDS FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY. HOWEVER, IT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPOSE HIGH TAXES ON BIG COMPANIES AND ESTATES AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE RICH, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED WHEN OPENING THE \$1 MILLION KUALA NERANG BRIDGE, 40 KM FROM HERE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT THE ORDINARY PEOPLE COULD NOT AFFORD TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS LIKE BUILDING SCHOOLS, ROADS AND BRIDGES OR PROVIDING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ON THEIR OWN.

SUCH PROJECTS HAD TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS HIGH TAXES HAD TO BE IMPOSED ON THE RICH. -- BERNAMA MORE 1415/1B

NO41: (F)
MAHATHIR-TAXES 2 ALOR STAR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF RESTRICTING THE GROWTH OF SUCH COMPANIES AS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TAXES ALSO BENEFITED THE ORDINARY PEOPLE.

THE ORDINARY PEOPLE WERE ALSO PAYING TAXES BUT AT A MUCH LOWER RATE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ALLOCATING HUGE SUMS OF MONEY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO LIVE HAPPILY.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS WERE NOT CONFINED TO PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN LINE WITH THE POSITION ISLAM AS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE COUNTRY, EFFORTS HAD BEEN AND WERE BEING MADE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RELIGION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1440/1B

MAHATHIR-TAXES 3 ALOR STAR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOME PEOPLE HAD ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR ISLAM BUT THEY WERE THE VERY PEOPLE WHO HAD RECEIVED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THROUGH EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SET UP RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, KEDAH HAD BEEN ALLOCATED \$2,300 MILLION COMPARED WITH \$98 MILLION UNDER THE SECOND PLAN AND \$830 MILLION UNDER THE THIRD PLAN.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION TO THE STATE AS REQUESTED AS THE REVENUE FROM RUBBER, TIN AND PALM OIL HAD DROPPED DRASTICALLY. --BERNAMA MORE 1512/MD

NO51 (F)
MAHATHIR-TAXES 4 ALOR STAR

EARLIER, KEDAH MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN LED MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE TO WELCOME THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ARRIVED IN A HELICOPTER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR WERE THEN DRIVEN IN A MOTORCADE TO THE BRIDGE FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE BRIDGE BENEFITS MORE THAN 20,000 IN THE KUALA NERANG AND PADANG SENAI AREAS.

PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WAS WORKS AND UTILITIES MINISTER DATUK S. SAMY VELLU. --BERNAMA 1517/MD