

N106 (F)  
MAHATHIR-RESPECT  
BM

LUBOK MERBAU (KEDAH), FEB. 26<sup>82</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE KEY TO MALAYSIA GAINING THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD IS TO PRODUCE ALMOST, IF NOT ALL, OF HER OWN NEEDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THE COUNTRY HAD THE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITY TO MEET HER OWN NEEDS, INCLUDING FOR AUTOMOBILES, EVEN IF SHE HAD TO ACQUIRE THE EXPERTISE FIRST.

HE WANTED THE PEOPLE TO ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY WERE WILLING TO HELP THE COUNTRY BECOME STRONG AND POWERFUL, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO PLAY ITS PART PROVIDED THERE WAS SUCH WILL AMONG THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS ADDRESSING A LARGE GATHERING AT THE LUBOK MERBAU FELDA SCHEME SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPOUND 83.2 KILOMETRES FROM ALOR STAR.

HE EXPRESSED HIS WISH TO SEE MALAYSIA AND HER PEOPLE BECOMING A STRONG AND POWERFUL NATION, NOT FOR CHEST-THUMPING PURPOSES, BUT FOR NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HONOUR, SO THAT NO ONE COULD LOOK DOWN ON THE COUNTRY.

—BERNAMA MORE 1847/AN

N107 (F)  
MAHATHIR-RESPECT 2 LUBOK MERBAU (KEDAH)

HE DID NOT WANT OTHERS TO LOOK DOWN ON MALAYSIA AND HER PEOPLE AND RELIGION, OR TO SPEAK DISPARAGINGLY OF MALAYSIANS AS HAVING WEALTH WITHOUT MEANING.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT TO BECOME A STRONG NATION, MALAYSIANS, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH, MUST BE PREPARED TO WORK HARD AND NOT BE CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS.

THEY MUST BE WILLING TO GO ANY PLACE THE WORK TOOK THEM, LIKE THE JAPANESE ENGINEERS TOILING DAY AND NIGHT ON THE CEMENT FACTORY PROJECT AT LANGKAWI, 64,000 KILOMETRES FROM TOKYO.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO MAKE MALAYSIA A STRONG COUNTRY BUT THIS EFFORT MUST BE RECIPROCATED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO SAID FELDA SETTLERS AT LUBOK MERBAU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR GOOD FORTUNE IN GETTING TO JOIN THE SCHEME IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THERE WERE 10,000 OTHERS IN THE WAITING LIST FOR SUCH SCHEMES.

TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, THEY SHOULD WORK HARD TO MAXIMISE OUTPUT FROM THEIR CULTIVATION, HE ADDED.

—BERNAMA MORE 1852/AN

MAHATHIR-RESPECT 3 LUBOK MERBAU (KEDAH)

THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR WOULD ALSO BENEFIT OTHERS WHO WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE AS THEM, HE SAID.

FELDA SETTLERS AT LUBOK MERBAU EARN UP TO \$500 A MONTH WHEN PRICES OF THEIR CROPS ARE BAD BUT UP TO \$2,000 A MONTH WHEN TIMES ARE GOOD.

FELDA IS THE BIGGEST PLANTATION OWNER IN THE WORLD, HAVING MORE THAN 400,000 HECTARES UNDER ITS EMPIRE, FOUR TIMES THE ACREAGE SIZE OF THE BIGGEST PRIVATE SECTOR PLANTATION.

AFTER THE GATHERING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PERFORMED FRIDAY PRAYERS WITH THE SETTLERS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KEDAH MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN AND MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE, TAN SRI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN, WHO IS ALSO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PADANG TERAP.

—BERNAMA 1855/AN