

MAHATHIR
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PARIT BUNTAR, APRIL 11 (BERNAMA) -- / DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ASSURED TODAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE EQUAL ATTENTION TO THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER NEGLECTED THE QUESTION OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE MATERIALISTIC PROGRESS.

HE WAS OPENING A FURNITURE FACTORY, A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE PERAK STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND AN AUSTRALIAN FIRM, AT THE PARIT BUNTAR INDUSTRIAL AREA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CRITICIZED CERTAIN GROUPS WHO DENIED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS WHILE THEY THEMSELVES DID NOTHING FOR THE PEOPLE.

+THESE PEOPLE ARE MOTIVATED BY REASONS THAT THEY ALONE KNOW+, HE SAID.

AND IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN ENDS, THESE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO MISLEAD THE PEOPLE BY LEVELLING VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED.

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THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE EASILY INFLUENCED BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF THESE GROUPS IN DENYING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS ALL THIS TIME.

+WE SHOULD NOT ACT RASHLY AND FORGET THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED ALL THIS TIME BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE LIKE KILLING THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER CEASED TO STRIVE, TO THINK AND FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO OTHER GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD WHICH WAS PREPARED TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS.

ON INDUSTRIES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MORE FACTORIES WOULD BE SET UP IN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO PRODUCE EXPORT-ORIENTED GOODS.

--BERNAMA MORE 1634/AN

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THIS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP SAVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT ALSO PROVIDE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTHS OF THE COUNTRY AND ENABLE MALAYSIANS TO ACQUIRE FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY.

HE SAID THE REVENUE FROM TIN, RUBBER AND OIL WAS WINVESTED IN OTHER INDUSTRIES SO THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT FACE DIFFICULTIES WHEN THESE RESOURCES WERE DEPLETED IN THE FUTURE.

HE SAID THE OIL RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY WERE EXPECTED TO BE DEPLETED IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

+THEREFORE, WE HAVE TO INVEST THE REVENUE FROM OIL FOR THE FUTURE+, HE SAID.

EARLIER, PERAK BUNTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOHAMED HAJI WAN TEH SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO APPROVE MORE APPLICATIONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF FACTORIES IN THE RURAL AREAS.

--BERNAMA MORE 1644/AN

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HE SAID THAT VARIOUS INCENTIVES WOULD BE PROVIDED.

THE CORPORATION ALONE HAD SEVERAL SUBSIDIARIES WITH A TOTAL CAPITAL OF ABOUT \$8.6 MILLION.

HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD SET UP A TECHNICAL ACTION COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AS A ONE-STOP AGENCY FOR INDUSTRIALISTS WISHING TO SET UP FACTORIES IN THE STATE.

THE ELITE WOOD PRODUCTS SDN. BHD. HAS AN AUTHORIZED CAPITAL OF \$2 MILLION AND EMPLOYS 60 PEOPLE.

--BERNAMA 1645/AN