

NO73
MAHATHIR-MB
BM

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 28 (BERNAMA)--THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WAS GIVEN SERIOUS ATTENTION BY THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, AT HIS MEETING HERE TODAY WITH THE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS.

THE MEETING, THE FIRST SINCE THE GENERAL ELECTION, WAS HELD AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

A STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT SAID THE MEETING DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

THE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED WAYS TO INTENSIFY EXISTING COOPERATION.

ALL THE STATES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR CHIEF EXECUTIVES EXCEPT FOR SABAH WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JAMES ONGKILI AND KEDAH WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY ACTING MENTERI BESAR DATUK OTHMAN AROFF. --BERNAMA MORE 1635/MD

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ALSO AT THE MEETING WERE SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS. MAKING THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE AT SUCH A MEETING WERE JOHORE MENTERI BESAR DATUK AJIB AHMAD, NEGRI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR ENCIK ISA SAMAD, MALACCA CHIEF MINISTER ENCIK RAHIM THAMBY CHIK, SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI ALI AND PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK NAJIB TUN RAZAK. --BERNAMA 1640/MD