

MAHATHIR  
BN

EMBARGO: FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE AT 2230 HOURS TODAY, JULY 13

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ON ECONOMY MEASURES WILL CARRY ON TO NEXT YEAR, PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT. HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT THE DEPRESSED WORLD ECONOMY WOULD NOT RECOVER UNTIL THE END OF 1983 OR EARLY 1984.

BECAUSE OF THIS, THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT TREAT THE MATTER LIGHTLY BUT ON THE OTHER HAND TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS AND IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WANTED THIS MESSAGE TO REACH ALL LEVELS- ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTIVES AND PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS.

HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED OVER RTM'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME, ENWAL SEMASA.

PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER MORE THAN AT PRESENT PROVIDED THAT THEY PLAY THEIR INDIVIDUAL ROLE BY FOREGOING LUXURIES DURING THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. --  
MORE 1809/0M

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE ILL-EFFECTS TO THE COUNTRY IF THE WORLD ECONOMY WORSENEED.

SUCH A SITUATION WAS SURE TO AFFECT GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND ITS ABILITY TO PAY OPERATING COSTS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOR THE SIX MONTHS UP TO DECEMBER THE GOVERNMENT HAD CUT THE BUDGET BY \$4,000 MILLION.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT FEW PROJECTS WOULD BE DELAYED THIS YEAR AND SUCH DELAYS WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH ILL-EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE.

ONLY THOSE PROJECTS WHICH HAD YET TO BE LAUNCHED OR WHICH CONTRACTS WERE YET TO BE SIGNED WOULD BE DELAYED, HE ADDED. --  
MORE 1814/0M

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MORE TIME TO REVIEW THE FATE OF PROJECTS FOR NEXT YEAR. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD USE SEVERAL CRITERIA SUCH AS SOCIAL EFFECT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PROJECTS WITH WIDESPREAD SOCIAL EFFECTS SUCH AS HOUSING COULD NOT BE EASILY REDUCED.

HE SAID THE QUESTION OF LUXURY OR PRESTIGE PROJECTS DID NOT ARISE AS THERE HAD NOT BEEN MANY SINCE MERDEKA.

HE SAID THAT MOST PRESENT DAY PROJECTS WERE MEANINGFUL ONES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT CUTS IN ALLOCATIONS TO STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS WOULD NOT JEOPARDISE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY BECAUSE THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS RESPECT. --

BERNAMA 1818/0M