

PARLIAMENT - ASSISTANCE
BM

82 ③
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 5 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL SMALL NATIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, SUCH AS FIJI, BESIDES THE MALDIVES AND BANGLADESH IN CERTAIN FIELDS OF TRAINING AND EXPERTISE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT EFFORTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO PROVIDE TRAINING FACILITIES AND "LOAN" OF EXPERTS IN CERTAIN FIELDS TO THESE COUNTRIES.

HE SAID IT WAS MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY TO ASSIST COUNTRIES THAT NEEDED ASSISTANCE ACCORDING TO ITS ABILITY WITHOUT THINKING OF THE IMMEDIATE RETURNS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, HE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH 10 GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THESE COMPANIES AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WAS NOT SOLELY AIMED AT SEEKING PROFITS, HE SAID IN REPLY TO SEVERAL SUPPLEMENTARY GUERIES FROM THE MEMBERS IN THE DEWAN. -- MORE 1725/MB

NNNN

PARLIAMENT - ASSISTANCE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED WITH OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF TRAINING THAT COULD BE GIVEN AND EXPERTS THAT COULD BE SENT TO THOSE COUNTRIES NEEDING THEM.

PROSPECTUS ON THE FIELDS OF TRAINING AND EXPERTISE THAT MALAYSIA COULD PROVIDE WAS BEING PREPARED AND WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, HE SAID IN REPLY TO ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-KUALA LUMPUR BANDAR).

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN AT PRESENT TO SEND MEMBERS OF PALIAMENT TO THOSE COUNTRIES BECAUSE WHILE THIS WOULD ENTAIL LARGE EXPENDITURE, THE RETURNS FROM THE TRIPS WOULD NOT BE WORTH THE EXPENSES.

REPLYING TO HAJI HASHIM ENDUT (BN-HULU MUDA), HE SAID FIJI WAS KEEN ON AGRICULTURE SUCH AS CULTIVATION OF OIL PALM, A FIELD IN WHICH MALAYSIA HAD THE EXPERTISE.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT AIM TO GET IMMEDIATE BENEFITS FROM THE ASSISTANCE BECAUSE WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES AND MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1803/MB

NNNN

ZCZC N128 (F)

PARLIAMENT - ASSISTANCE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION BY ENCIK NG CHENG KUI (BN-LUMUT), DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA'S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE COUNTRIES DID NOT MEAN THAT MALAYSIA WANTED TO SHOW THAT IT WAS DEVELOPED AND CAPABLE.

MALAYSIA'S AIM WAS TO PROVIDE CO-OPERATION, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA