

PARLIAMENT-PETRONAS

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 10 (BERNAMA) - ALL STATES ARE ENJOYING THE BENEFITS FROM THE COUNTRY'S OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY OF DIVIDING THE NATION'S WEALTH FAIRLY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD THE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS FROM THE NATION'S RESOURCES SHOULD NOT ONLY BE ENJOYED BY ANY PARTICULAR STATE BUT BY ALL THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE NATION'S RESOURCES WERE DISTRIBUTED FAIRLY SO THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY PROBLEMS OF DISPARITY BETWEEN STATES, AREAS OR GRUPS, HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTION FROM HAJI SEROJI HARUN (BN-BALING) IN DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PAYMENT OF ROYALTY ON OIL WAS PAID TO SABAH, SARAWAK AND TERENGGANU BASED ON THIS POLICY.

HE REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF INCREASING THE PRESENT ROYALTY.-- MORE 1625/HM

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TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK YEW FOO WENG (BN-MENGLERBU), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE THREE OIL PRODUCING STATES WERE GETTING MORE THAN THE OTHER STATES.

THE OTHER STATES SHARED THE REVENUE FAIRLY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY ALL STATES, THE STATE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CLAIM THE REVENUE FROM OIL EXPLORATION IN AREAS OUTSIDE A 12-MILE RADIUS OF THE COAST.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GAVE FAIR CONSIDERATION TO THE STATES AND WAIVED THE CONDITION CONTAINED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

--MORE 1645/HM

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PETRONAS HAD CONDUCTED GEOLOGICAL TESTS IN THE NORTHERN AND STRAITS OF MALACCA AREAS.

FROM INITIAL TESTS SO FAR THESE AREAS WERE FOUND TO HAVE LESS POTENTIAL FOR OIL PRODUCTION.

THE TESTS AND EXPLORATION WERE DONE SOLELY BY MOBIL COMPANY IN 1968 UNTIL 1974 AND LATER, ON A JOINT-VENTURE BASIS WITH TEIJIN MALAYSIA EXPLORATION.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK MOHAMED AMIN HAJI DAUD (BN-PEKAN) THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLANS TO CONDUCT MORE EXPLORATION WORK.

HOWEVER, PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO AREAS LIKELY TO HAVE OIL POTENTIAL.

AT THE MOMENT THE OFF-SHORE AREAS FACING THE EAST COAST WERE FOUND TO HAVE OIL POTENTIAL.

IN REPLY TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM DATUK ABU BAKAR RAUTIN IBRAHIM (BN-KUALA KEDAH) HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT ALL OIL EXPLORATIONS BE CARRIED OUT BY PETRONAS BECAUSE IT HAD EXPERIENCE AND ALSO BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO BE CHEATED WITH FALSE PROMISES FROM OTHERS. -- MORE 1727/PA

ZCZC N106 (F)

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IF ANY STATE WISHED TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IT COULD NEGOTIATE WITH PETRONAS TO DETERMINE WHICH COMPANY SHOULD DO THE EXPLORATION.

ON THE ALLEGATIONS BY ENCIK HASSAN HAJI MOHAMED (PAS-RANTAU PANJANG), THE ROYALTY BEING PAID TO TERENGGANU WAS SMALL, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES GIVEN BY THE TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR, THE STATE RECEIVED \$300 MILLION IN ROYALTY IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

THIS WAS INDEED A BIG AMOUNT COMPARED TO KEDAH WHICH RECEIVED ONLY \$30 MILLION A YEAR.

ON ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG'S (DAP-KOTA MELAKA) QUESTION THAT PETRONAS CHAIRMAN, TAN SRI ABDULLAH SALLEH HAD PROMISED COULD BEST BE MADE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

+SUCH MATTERS WERE ONLY DECIDED BY CABINET, AND NO OTHERS OUTSIDE IT COULD GIVE ANY PROMISES,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 1730/PA

ZCZC N107 (F)

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REPLYING TO ENCIK WAN NAJIB MOHAMED (BN-PASIR PUTIH) WHETHER IT WAS THE OIL REVENUE THAT MADE PAS TO WANT TO RECAPTURE EAST COST STATES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID:

+I BELIEVE THAT THIS MATTER DOES NOT ARISE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY WINNING IN TERENGGANU.+

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK ISMAIL SAID (BN-KEMAMAN), HE SAID PETRONAS HAD VARIOUS PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH OIL PRODUCTION IN STATE WHICH WERE CLOSE TO OIL RESOURCES.

THE PROJECTS WERE THE LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) ABEAN UREA FERTILIZER PROJECTS IN BINTULU AND A REFINERY, SUPPLY BASE AND OIL STORAGE TANK IN TERENGGANU. -- BERNAMA 1733/PA