

EMBARGO : TO BE RELEASED AFTER 10.30 P.M.

MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 20 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID CERTAIN PUBLIC PROJECTS WHICH ARE IMPLEMENTED ON A RINGGIT-TO-RINGGIT BASIS CAN RESULT IN EXPENDITURES NOT BUDGETED FOR.

SEPAKING AT THE ROTARY CONFERENCE DINNER HERE TONIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, IN SUCH CASES WHERE THE PEOPLE IN A LOCALITY JOINED THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS FOR THEIR BENEFITS, THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED A DOLLAR FOR EVERY DOLLAR RAISED FOR THE PROJECTS BY THE PEOPLE.

+THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REALLY ENCOURAGE THIS BECAUSE IT MAY BE CAUGHT UP IN EXPENDITURES NOT BUDGETED FOR+, SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

THIS DID NOT MEAN A LACK OF APPRECIATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PART, HE ADDED.

+IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE CERTAIN BUDGETARY PROCEDURES ARE NECESSARY IF PUBLIC FUNDS ARE TO BE PROPERLY ADMINISTERED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 2003/PA

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN RENDERING SERVICES OR IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT WAS ENCOURAGED IN MALAYSIA.

THIS COULD BE DONE BY THE PUBLIC THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANISATIONS BY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THEM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID NURTURING AN ATTITUDE OF OVER-DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE HELP. +WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE ROLE THAT GIFTS AND DONATIONS PLAY IN HELPING TO AMELIORATE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE NEEDY IN OUR SOCIETY, WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID NURTURING SUCH AN ATTITUDE.+

HE SAID SERVICE CLUBS, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD NOT CHOOSE THE EASY WAY OUT AS REPRESENTED BY FUND-RAISING AND FUND DISTRIBUTION.

WAYS AND MEANS OF STIMULATING SELF-HELP SHOULD BE FOUND. +IT IS BETTER TO PARTICIPATE IN A 'GOTONG-ROYONG' WHERE EVERYONE TAKES PART THAN MERELY MAKE A GIFT OF A READY-MADE FACILITY+, HE SAID. -- MORE 2006/PA

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID A 'GOTONG ROYONG' PROJECT NOT ONLY MAKE THE RESULT OF THE EFFORT AVAILABE TO THE RECIPIENTS BUT HELPED TO INCULCATE THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE.

+NO ONE CAN DENY THAT A COMMUNITY WHICH VALUES AND ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY SERVICE BY ITS MEMBERS WILL BE A MUCH BETTER SOCIETY+, SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ON THE ROLE OF SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HE SAW AS AN EFFECTIVE VEHICLE TOWARDS ACHIEVING NOT ONLY A SOCIAL ORDER BUT ALSO AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ORDER.

HE SAID THERE WAS A LOT SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS COULD DO TO AWAKEN THE CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY. +BASICALLY THAT IS WHAT IS MISSING --CONSCIENCE+.

HE SAID THE RICH AND THE POWERFUL IN SOCIETY AND IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS HAD STIFLED THEIR CONSCIENCE AND REPLACED IT WITH ARROGANCE. -- MORE 2010/PA

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MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID HUMAN SOCIETY AND THE WORLD WAS MADE POORER BY THIS UNLESS SOCIAL GROUPS DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE AWAKENING OF SOCIETY'S HIGHER ATTITUDE.

THE WORLD WAS IN MORE TROUBLE THAN EVER AND CIVILISATION WAS GRIPPED BY GREED, SELFISHNESS AND ARROGANCE, HE SAID.

+PROGRESS HAS BEEN ASTOUNDING AND LEADERS ARE MORE ABLE TO MEET AND CONFER YET WE SEE MUCH SUFFERING AROUND US+, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOCIAL ORGANISATION MEMBERS SUCH AS ROTARIANS HAVE A LOT TO TEACH THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD.

+HUMANITY WOULD FOREVER BE GRATEFUL IF THEY CAN PUT THIS SIMPLE AXIOM INTO PRACTISE AND SAVE THE WORLD FROM MORE CATASTROPHES+, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 2014/PA