

NNNN

EMBARGO : FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 P.M. NOV 28

MAHATHIR - JOURNALISTS  
BM

82 ①  
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 28 (BERNAMA) -- ~~DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR~~  
MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON JOURNALISTS TO USE THEIR PEN TO MOULD  
A NATIONAL CHARACTER TO A LEVEL WHERE IT COULD GUARANTEE THE  
FUTURE OF THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS PATRIOTS AND A RESPONSIBLE GROUP,  
THE JOURNALISTS WOULD +SHARPEN AND USE+ THEIR PEN IN MOULDING THE  
REQUIRED CHARACTER.

+AS THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT, NATURALLY YOU WILL  
PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE EFFORT TO TURN MALAYSIANS INTO AN INDUS-  
TRIOUS, HONES AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

HOW THE NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER MEDIA COULD CREATE SUCH QUALITIES  
ONLY THE JOURNALISTS THEMSELVES KNEW BETTER, HE SAID DURING THE  
PRESENTATION OF THE MALAYSIAN PRESS AWARD '81 HERE.

+NOT ONLY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT REGARD YOU AS COMPATRIOTS IN  
THE SAME STURGGLE BUT THE PEOPLE WILL IN THE END THANK YOU ALTHOUGH  
THEY MAY NOT BE TOO ENTETAINED WITH REPORTS THAT ARE NOT ON  
SENSATIONAL ISSUES, SEX SCANDALS AND FAIRY TALES.+ --  
MORE 2142/PA

ZCZC N138 (F)

MAHATHIR - JOURNALISTS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

APART FROM THIS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CALLED ON JOURNALISTS TO PLAY THEIR ROLE IN CHANGING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE TO BEING SELF-RELIANT EVEN IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP FROM ONE THAT WAS BEING OVER-DEPENDENT.

HE ATTRACTED THEIR ATTENTION TO WESTERN VALUES WHICH CENTRED ON THE +DOLE MENTALITY+ SUCH THAT IF THEIR BUSINESS SUFFERED THE GOVERNMENT MUST COMPENSATE, IF THE SALE PRICE FELL THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE SUBSIDY AND IF THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF GOODS OR INFLATION, THE GOVERNMENT MUST RAISE THEIR SALARIES OR REDUCE TAXES.

HE SAID THE PRESENT WEAKNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE MUST BE OVERCOME THROUGH A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE, A CHANGE TOWARDS A MORE INDUSTRIOUS AND HONEST CITIZENS WHO COULD STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET AND WHO WERE WILLING TO PROTECT THEIR INTEGRITY.

IF SUCH CHANGES WERE NOT MADE, THERE WAS NO WAY A GOVERNMENT WHO RULED OVER A +WEAK+ PEOPLE COULD BECOME +STRONG+ AND SIMILARLY AN WEAK GOVERNMENT WHO ALSO RULED OVER A +WEAK+ PEOPLE COULD NEVER CREATE A STRONG AND STABLE NATION, HE SAID.

+AS SUCH, JOURNALISTS MUST TRY TO GET RID OF SUCH NEGATIVE WESTERN VALUES NOT ONLY IN THEMSELVES BUT ALSO IN THE PEOPLE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED. -- MORE 2155/PA  
NNNN

ZCZC N139 (F)

MAHATHIR - JOURNALISTS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE AND JOURNALISTS WHO ADOPTED NEW VALUES FROM THE WEST TO CONSIDER WHETHER RECEIVING RECOGNITION FROM THE WEST WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SUCCESS AND RESILIENCE OF THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID A NUMBER OF MALAYSIANS OVERSEAS DID NOT HESITATE TO MAR THE GOOD NAME OF THEIR COUNTRY MERELY TO RECEIVE THE APPLAUSE FROM WESTERNERS.

THERE WERE ALSO OTHERS WHO IN FOLLOWING THE WESTERN FASHION REGARDED HARDWORK AS SLAVERY OR BY DMPHASIZING ON INDIVIDULISM RATHER THAN THE COMMUNITY WAS FREEDOM, HE SAID.

BUT, THE PRIME MINISTER WHO REGARDED HIMSELF AS +OLD FASHIONED+, SAID OLE VALUES SUCH AS PATRIOTISM, HARDWORK AND PLACING COMMUNITY INTEREST ABOVE ONE'S OWN HAD MADE MALAYSIA A STRONG NATION.

HE SAID THE LOOK EAST POLICY WHICH WAS BEING CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO CULTIVATE AND INCULCATE THE GOOD VALUES OF THE JAPANESES AND SOUTH KOREANS IN THE EVERDAY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. -- MORE 2200/PA

MAHATHIR - JOURNALISTS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT JOURNALISTS COULD EXPLAIN IN THEIR WRITINGS THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING THE VOLICY WHICH WAS NOT TO EMULATE THE JAPANESE AND SOUTH KOREANS BLINDLY BUT TO CHOOSES THE GOOD VALUES FROM THE BAD.

+THIS IS WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALISTS SHOULD EXPLAIN- NOT TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT BUT AS A RESPONSIBILITY OUT OF THE LOVE FOR THE NATION.

+ALL THIS ARE RATHER OLD FASHIONED SENTIMENTS BUT GOOD VALUES AND ATTITUDES SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED MERELY BECAUSE THEY ARE NO LONGER THE IN-THING, +HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 2205/PA