

MAHATHIR-JAPAN R'R'R'

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY THAT MALAYSIA WOULD ALWAYS RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH HER TRADING PARTNERS INCLUDING JAPAN.

IN A MESSAGE READ BY MALAYSIA'S AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO, DATUK JAMALUDDIN ABU BAKAR, AT THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH JOINT MEETING OF JAPAN-MALAYSIA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS (JAMECA) IN THE JAPANESE CAPITAL, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT JAPAN SHARED MALAYSIA'S VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT.

A CABLE RECEIVED HERE FROM TOKYO SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO RECALLED HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN DURING WHICH HE URGED JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO STEP UP THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY THROUGH MORE INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA AS PART OF THE LONG TERM EFFORTS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"MALAYSIA IS VERY GREATFUL TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR AGREEING TO MALAYSIA'S REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL LOAN AMOUNTING TO 50 BILLION YEN IN ADDITION TO ITS PLEDGE OF 21 BILLION YEN FOR THE NINTH YEN CREDIT," HE SAID.

-- MORE 1633/LK

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MAHATHIR-JAPAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE SPECIAL YEN CREDIT AS A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY MALAYSIA DUE TO THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION.

"MALAYSIA HAS BEEN RECEIVING YEN CREDITS FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE MID SIXTIES. IT IS MY HOPE THAT JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TO EXTEND HER ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION TO MALAYSIA IN OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS," HE ADDED.

THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, ENCIK YASUHIRO NAKASONE, IN A SIMILAR MESSAGE REITERATED HIS COUNTRY'S WISH TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT.

ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MALAYSIA, HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AGAIN AND OBSERVING FOR HIMSELF MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

-- BERNAMA 1637/LK