

MAHATHIR-PROGRAMME

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PETALING JAYA, MARCH 24 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WISHING TO PLAY A PART IN MALAYSIA'S BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO ASSIST IN OTHER PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE BUT +THEY SHOULD NOT INCREASE THE BURDEN OF THE GOVERNMENT+.

EFFORTS TO STEP UP SUCH COOPERATION SHOULD BE STUDIED JOINTLY. HE ADDED WHEN LAUNCHING THE \$1 MILLION CLOCKTOWER BUILT BY THE UM NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY AND THE ROAD LEADING TO THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PROGRAMMES TO BEAUTIFY THE COUNTRY HAD BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AS DEVELOPMENT OFTEN BROUGHT ABOUT ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION AND DESTROYED NATURAL BEAUTY.

THEREFORE SUCH PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY ALL SECTIONS, HE ADDED.

--MORE 1959/AN

MAHATHIR-PROGRAMME 2 PETALING JAYA

HE SAID THE RESPONSE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN TAKING OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY OF BEAUTIFYING CERTAIN AREAS HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING.

FIRMS WHICH CONTRIBUTED MONEY AND ENERGY DID NOT LOOK FORWARD TO +DIRECT+ RETURNS, HE SAID. ON THE OTHER HAND, THESE +PUBLIC SPIRITED+ PEOPLE WOULD RECEIVE MANY BENEFITS INDIRECTLY, HE ADDED.

A COUNTRY WHICH WAS BEAUTIFUL AND CLEAN WOULD ITSELF BRING WITH IT PROSPERITY AND WOULD BENEFIT ALL THE PEOPLE INCLUDING THE FIRMS, HE SAID.

IF THE NATION WAS POOR AND WEAK, THE FIRMS WOULD ALSO BE AFFECTED.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD WHICH COULD TOTALLY CONTROL THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT COOPERATE.

IN EFFORTS TO BEAUTIFY THE ENVIRONMENT, BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE SHOULD JOIN HANDS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE COULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE BY PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.

FOR THOSE WHO HAD THE MEANS, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THEM TO BEAUTIFY THE SURROUNDINGS OF THEIR HOUSE OR AREAS THEY LIVED IN.

--MORE 2004/AN

ZCZC N194 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-PROGRAMME 3 PETALING JAYA

BUT, FOR THOSE WHO WERE VERY WELL-TO-DO, THEY SHOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO BEAUTIFY THE ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THROUGH SUCH COMBINED EFFORTS, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, THOUGH FIRMS AND THE WEALTHY, COULD WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY - AT LEAST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

--BERNAMA 2006/AN