

MAHATHIR

FROM MUSA TELLY'S

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COLOMBO, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SPOKE YESTERDAY OF THE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF MALAYSIA PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN THE MAHAWELI AGRICULTURAL SCHEME, ABOUT 200 KM NORTH OF HERE.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH MALAYSIAN PRESS MEMBERS, HE IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE PROJECTS AS THE GROWING OF SPICES.

HE SAID THAT INSTEAD OF BUYING SPICES FROM ABROAD IT COULD BE GROWN IN THE MAHAWELI PROJECT BY MALAYSIANS IN A JOINT-VENTURE WITH THE SRI LANKA PRIVATE SECTOR.

ON FRIDAY HE VISITED TWO DAM PROJECTS - THE MADURA OYA AND THE VICTORIA - OF THE MASSIVE MAHAWELI SCHEME.

-- MORE 0950/MB

ZCZC NO19 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 2 COLOMBO

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR LEFT FOR THE MALDIVES YESTERDAY AT THE END OF A THREE-DAY VISIT TO SRI LANKA.

HE IS ON THE FINAL-LEG OF A NINE-DAY JOURNEY WHICH EARLIER TOOK HIM TO BANGLADESH.

HE SAID THE NINE-MEMBER PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP WHICH ACCOMPANIED HIM HAD SEEN GREAT POTENTIALS FOR INVESTMENT BOTH IN SRI LANKA AND BANGLADESH AND HE EXPECTED THEM TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES AS A FOLLOW THROUGH TO INCREASE TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

ON HIS VISIT TO SRI LANKA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE MAHAWELI AGRICULTURAL PROJECT AND SAID THAT IT WOULD UPLIFT THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA.

HE SAID THE VISIT ALSO GAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP TO KNOW THEIR BUSINESS COUNTERPARTS BETTER.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP IS LED BY PRESIDENT OF THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF BANK BUMIPUTRA, DR. NAWAWI MAT AWIN.

IT INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER, BANK BUMIPUTRA AND MALAYSIAN SOGOSHSHA, MALAYSIA OVERSEAS INVESTMENT CORPORATION (MOIC). -- MORE 0955/MB

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ZCZC NO20 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 3 COLOMBO

IN BOTH SRI LANKA AND BANGLADESH, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, HE HAD OFFERED TRAINING AND OTHER FACILITIES UNDER THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP).

HE SAID THE RESPONSE FROM LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAD BEEN GOOD AND HE EXPECTED THEM TO TAKE UP THE OFFER.

IN RETURN, HE SAID MALAYSIA HAS OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN OTHER TECHNICAL FIELDS BY THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE MTCP, LAUNCHED IN 1980, PROVIDES LIMITED ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES. -- MORE 1000/MB

ZCZC NO21 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 4 COLOMBO

IN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT (MTCP) AND PROMOTION OF SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, HE SAID, THERE WAS AN URGENCY FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER AND ADOPT A COMMON APPROACH IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

MALAYSIA, HE STRESSED, WAS WORKING VERY HARD FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FRAMEWORK WAS A GOOD IDEA WHICH WOULD BENEFIT ITS MEMBERS AS ASEAN HAD DONE FOR ITS MEMBERS. -- BERNAMA 1003/MB