

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 22 (BERNAMA) -- THE 2000 LEVY FROM NEXT YEAR ON EVERY GOOD VEHICLE LEAVING THE COUNTRY WILL ENCOURAGE FULL USAGE OF DOMESTIC PORT FACILITIES DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE EXPORT OF THE COUNTRY'S GOODS THROUGH FOREIGN PORTS WAS CAUSING MALAYSIA LOSS OF A LARGE AMOUNT OF REVENUE, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING A MEETING OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL HERE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LEVY FOR EACH TIME LOCAL AND FOREIGN REGISTERED GOODS VEHICLES LEAVE THE COUNTRY WAS ANNOUNCED BY FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALIEGH HANZAN WHEN PRESENTING THE NATIONAL BUDGET TO TALLING \$27,692 MILLION IN THE DEWAN BANYAT YESTERDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED THE PEOPLE'S POSITIVE REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BUDGET.

HE DESCRIBED THE BUDGET AS VERY GOOD WHEN COMPARED WITH THOSE OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DURING THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION.

--MORE 1721/AN

MAHATHIR-BUDGET 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY HAD ACHIEVED AN ENCOURAGING GROWTH RATE OF 5.6 PER CENT THIS YEAR. THE PREVIOUS BUDGET HAD PREDICTED ONLY A 4.2 PER CENT GROWTH.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD TO DEVALUE THEIR CURRENCY BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION, THE VALUE OF THE MALAYSIAN RINGGIT HAD GROWN IN STRENGTH COMPARED WITH THE AMERICAN DOLLAR.

CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT POLICIES HAD ENABLED THE NATIONAL ECONOMY TO REMAIN STABLE, SAVING MALAYSIA FROM THE FINANCIAL BANKRUPTCY EXPERIENCED BY SOME OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY WAS DUE TO RESTRUCTURING IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR RATHER THAN TO ECONOMIC RECESSION.

ON THE LACK OF INCENTIVES TO INTENSIFY PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, HE EXPLAINED THAT TOO MANY INCENTIVES WOULD CAUSE LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BIGGEST INCENTIVE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS POLITICAL STABILITY AND CONSISTENT POLICIES.

--MORE 1756/AN

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MAHATHIR-BUDGET 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE POLICIES PRACTISED BY THE COUNTRY HAD PROVIDED FOR PREDICTABILITY OF ITS FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MALAYSIA HAD A GOOD TRACK RECORD WHERE CONTINUITY OF POLICIES WAS CONCERNED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUES RELATING TO THE AMENDMENTS OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

HE HAD INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT ROYAL ASSENT TO THE AMENDMENTS HAD NOT BEEN SECURED YET AS THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG WAS STILL INDISPOSED.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDED THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) ISSUE AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED TO RE-ADMISSION OF HAJAH SAFIAH TALIB, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE KUALA PILAH UMNO DIVISION IN NEGERI SEMBILAH AND APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UMNO CLUBS IN CARBONDALE (THE UNITED STATES), PARIS, WASHINGTON AND SUMATRA.

THE WASHINGTON UMNO CLUB WAS INAUGURATED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY.

--BERNAMA 1800/AN