

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT

B M

84
KOTA KINABALU, FEB. 20 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HOPED THAT THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN POLITICIANS FROM SABAH, SARAWAK AND THE PENINSULA WILL BE EMULATED BY OTHER GROUPS TO BRING ABOUT GREATER UNITY IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL WORKSHOP BEING ATTENDED BY UMNO, BERJAYA AND PARTI PESAKA BUMIPUTERABERSATU (PBB) MEMBERS HAD A GREATER SIGNIFICANCE AS IT WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN THE REGIONS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON THE LAST DAY OF HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO SABAH HERE TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE PEOPLE IN SABAH NO LONGER FELT ISOLATED BUT CONSIDERED THEMSELVES AS MALAYSIANS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE WOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE AND WAY OF LIFE IF THEY WISHED TO SUCCEED AND ADVANCE.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT SUCCESS WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH HANDOUTS BUT THROUGH ONE'S OWN EFFORTS. -- MORE 1910/0M
MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 2 KOTA KINABALU

THE STATE, BLESSED WITH FERTILE LAND FOR CULTIVATION, WOULD PROGRESS IN A SHORT TIME IF THE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR ALTITUDE AND WAY OF LIFE.

ON HIS VISIT TO SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KUNDASANG, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE STATE WAS UNDERGOING RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

THIS SHOWED THAT THE EFFORTS BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD HAD BEEN PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN SUGGESTED THAT AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN BE CARRIED OUT TO INTRODUCE TEA PRODUCED AT NALAPAK, KUNDASANG, TO HELP EXPAND THE MARKET FOR SABAH TEA ESPECIALLY AMONG THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

--- MORE 1915/0M

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 3 KOTA KINABALU

+ I BELIEVE SUCH PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS WILL HELP DEVELOP SABAH TEA, A STATE GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANY, + HE SAID.

ON ASPARAGUS, HE SAID THAT IT COULD BE CULTIVATED BY THE VILLAGERS TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME.

ON LABUAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PART OF CITY HALL OR THE KUALA LUMPUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUT WOULD BE PLACED UNDER THE FEDERAL TERRITORY MINISTRY.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO CAUSE UNDUE BURDEN TO ANY QUARTERS IN THE TAKING OVER OF THE ADMINISTRATION FROM THE SABAH GOVERNMENT TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPERVISE THE ADMINISTRATION AND ANY TRANSFER OF OFFICERS WOULD DEPEND ON THE ISLAND'S OWN NEED. -- MORE 1917/0M

ZCZC N143:

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 4 KOTA KINABALU

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE FEELINGS OF THE RESIDENTS ON THE ISLAND AND DID NOT WISH TO UNDULY STEP ON ANYBODY'S TOES.

+ BUT SOME TOES HAVE TO BE STEPPED, THAT IS CERTAIN, + HE SAID, REFERRING TO THE CHANGES THAT WOULD OCCUR WHEN LABUAN BECOMES A FEDERAL TERRITORY ON APRIL 16.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, WHATEVER WAS TO BE DONE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN LABUAN WOULD BE FOR THE BENEFIT AND INTERESTS OF THE ISLAND.

-- BERNAMA 1920/0M