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BANDAR TUN RAZAK (PAHANG), MARCH 10 (BERNAMA) -- THE PEOPLE SHOULD USED THE COUNTRY'S SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WISELY TO SELECT LEADERS AND PARTIES OF BENEFIT TO THEM. (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR) MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY AND TO PREVENT THE COUNTRY FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF ANY QUARTER.

+WE MUST MONITOR AND PRESERVE OUR SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY AND NOT ALLOW IT TO BE ERODED UNNOTICED LITTLE BY LITTLE UNTIL DEMOCRACY HAD DISAPPEARED OR THE COUNTRY WAS DOMINATED BY A FACTION. +

HE WAS SPEAKING WHEN LAUNCHING THE FELDA SETTLERS SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUND AT THE KERATONG TIGA FELDA SCHEME IN THE TUN ABDUL RAZAK FELDA GROUP HERE.

THE FUND, WHICH HAS AN INITIAL CAPITAL OF \$10 MILLION, IS AIMED AT PROVIDING WIDER FOR 83,000 SERVICES, FELDA FAMILIES IN THE COUNTRY -- ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND WELFARE AREAS, INCLUDING

-i-ii THE EDUCATION OF SETTLERS' CHILDREN. -- MORE 1715/PA

PM-DEMOCRACY 2 BANDAR TUN ABDUL RAZAK (PAHANG)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNTRY'S SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY GAVE THE PEOPLE THE PREROGATIVE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE BY ELECTING REPRESENTATIVES WHO COULD DELIVER THE GOODS.

+I AM BRINGING UP THIS ISSUE BECAUSE SOMETIMES WE FORGET THIS AND TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT ANY GOVERNMENT IN POWER IN THE COUNTRY WILL PRACTISE DEMOCRACY. + HE ADDED.

DEMOCRACY ALSO GAVE THE PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO MAKE DEMANDS OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND THOSE FAILING TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE RETURNED IN THE FIVE-YEARLY GENERAL ELECTION.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THIS RIGHT WAS AN IMPORTANT RIGHT WHICH MUST NOT BE ABUSED.

DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE USED WISELY AND WELL FOR 'ANY UNREASONABLE OR UNFAIR DEMAND WOULD NOT BENEFIT ITS ADHERENTS.

+IN SUCH A CASE, WE CANNOT FAULT DEMOCRACY BECAUSE IT IS LIKE A KNIFE, WHICH, IF USED CLEVERLY CAN CREATE AN EXQUISITE CARVING BUT IF USED CLUMSILY CAN INJURE THE USER. + HE ADDED. -- MORE 1803/PA

PM-DEMOCRACY 3 BANDAR TUN RAZAK (PAHANG)

THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED MALAYSIANS FOR THEIR WISDOM IN USING THEIR VOTING POWER TO ELECT CANDIDATES AND PARTIES THAT COULD BENEFIT THEM.

+THERE IS A PARTY USING THE MOON AS ITS SYMBOL, THE PROPER PLACE OF THE MOON IS IN THE SKY -- SO FORGET THESE CANDIDATES, CHOOSE THOSE WHO CAN SERVE US. + HE ADDED. TO THE AMUSEMENT OF ABOUT 40,000 PEOPLE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY.

HE REMINDED FELDA SETTLERS PARTICULARLY THAT THE SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY PRACTISED BY THE GOVERNMENT HAD LED TO THE CREATION OF FELDA AND PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BENEFITTING THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

+DEMOCRACY MEANS THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY AND THE GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATORS, INCLUDING MYSELF HAVE TO HEED THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAJORITY OR RISK BEING REMOVED. + --- MORE 1805/PA

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PM-DEMOCRACY 4 BANDAR TUN RAZAK (PAHANG)

HE SAID FELDA SETTLERS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR LIFE HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY PRACTISED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE URGED THEM TO COMPLY WITH DIRECTIVES AND TO BE ALWAYS DEDICATED AND DISCIPLINED. WITHOUT SUCH QUALITIES, THEY COULD NEVER HOPE TO SUCCEED IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS. -- BERNAMA 1807/PA