

MAHATHIR - PROSPECT
BM

84 (2)
KUALALUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID PROSPECTS FOR 1984-85 INDICATE THE COUNTRY WOULD ATTAIN AN ENCOURAGING RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH OF 6.7 PER CENT PER ANNUM, HIGHER THAN THE SIX PER CENT FORECAST WHEN THE BUDGET WA9 PRESENTED IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT LAST OCTOBER.

HE SAID THE ESTIMATE WAS BASED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES' GROWTH RATES OF BETWEEN THREE AND 3.5 PER CENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TABLING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

HE SAID THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL, MINING AND MANUFACTURING SECTORS WOULD IMPROVE WHILE THAT OF OTHER SECTORS WOULD REGISTER MODERATE GROWTH.

HE SAID THE GROWTH OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WOULD DEPEND ON OIL PALM, WHILE THAT OF THE MINING SECTOR WOULD DEPEND ON THE NATURAL GAS. -- MORE 1917/MB
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN WIDE WOULD BE REDUCED DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD OF 1981-83 AMOUNTED TO 33.4 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO RE-ORIENTATE ITS ROLE TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

IN LINE WITH THIS THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S EXPENDITURE FOR 1984-85 WOULD AMOUNT TO \$19,200 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE AMOUNT EXPENDED DURING THE 1981-83 PERIOD. --

HE HOWEVER, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CAREFUL NOT TO LET THE CUT AFFECT THE CONTINUOUS LONG-TERM GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, ESPECIALLY THE ONES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. -- MORE 1922/MB

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID OF THE TOTAL \$19,200 MILLION IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THE FEDERAL-GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTED TO \$15,400 MILLION WITH \$3,065 MILLION OR 19.9 PER CENT ALLOCATED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

HE SAID \$1,339 OR 9.1 PER CENT WAS SPENT ON TRADE AND INDUSTRIES, \$3,732 OR 24.2 PER CENT ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND \$2,081 OR 13.5 PER CENT ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENERGY.

THE SOCIAL AND SECURITY SECTORS WERE GIVEN ALLOCATION OF \$2,787 MILLION OR 18.1 PER CENT AND \$2,007 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HE SAID THE FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPENDED LARGELY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

INVESTMENT FROM PRIVATE SECTOR WAS EXPECTED TO GROW AT A RATE OF 11.5 PER CENT ANNUALLY TO REACH A TOTAL OF \$3,219 MILLION DURING THE 1984-85 PERIOD. -- MORE 1927/MB

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HE SAID AT THAT GROWTH RATES THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION WOULD COMPRISE 67 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMPARED TO 0 PER CENT IN THE 1981-83 PERIOD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MAIN STRATEGY TO GET THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S GRATER INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WAS THROUGH THE PRIVATISATION POLICY.

HE SAID THE STRATEGY WOULD ENSURE LESS GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE WHILE INCREASING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES.

HE, HOWEVER? SAID THE PRIVATISATION WOULD BE DONE IN LINE WITH THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE STRATEGY WOULD PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO BUMIPUTERAS IN THE FIELDS OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, EMPLOYMENTS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ASSURED THAT THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHOSE DEPARTMENTS WERE PRIVATISED WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. -- BERNAHA 1935/MB