

MAHATHIR-TV3

184 . . . P) (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 13 (BERNAMA) -- TV3 WILL HAVE TO PAY ROYALTY PAYMENTS RANGING FROM 3 TO 7-1/2 PER CENT OF ITS YEARLY GROSS TAKINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT, DATUKSERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAHAD SAID TODAY. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL TV NETWORK WAS SUBJECTED TO THE PAYMENTS AS SOON AS IT BECAME OPERATIONAL.

HOWEVER, THE MODE OF PAYMENT -- WHETHER IT BE ON A MONTHLY BASIS OR IN ONE LUMP SUM ANNUALLY -- WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED LATER, HE SAID AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING AT HIS OFFICE HERE.

THE FORMULA ON THE ROYALTY PAYMENT WAS DETERMINED AT TODAY'S CABINET MEETING.

DATUKSERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID TV3 WOULD ALSO HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERY GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME TAKEN FROM FILEM NEGARA AND RTM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PAYMENT IMPOSED ON TV3 WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO BENEFITTED FROM THE FILM INDUSTRY. --MORE 1558/HM
MAHATHIR-TV3 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, TV3 WOULD ALSO BE SUBJECTED TO INCOME TAX PAYMENTS FROM ITS PROFITS AS IMPOSED ON OTHER COMPANIES.

TV3, MANAGED BY SISTEM TELEVISYEN MALAYSIA BERHAD (STAMB), BEGAN TRANSMISSION ON JUNE 11--SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF ITS TARGET DATE OF LAUNCHING.

ASKED ON THE NETWORK'S PERFORMANCE, DATUKSERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ASKED THE INFORMATION MINISTRY TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MATTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID 19 CABINET PAPERS WERE DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING, INCLUDING AN INFORMATION PAPER ON THE SUNKEN TREASURE FOUND ON THE SHIPWRACK OFF PULAU BATUGAJAH NEAR MERSING.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE CABINET HAD ALSO AGREED THAT MALAYSIA UNDERTAKE A RESEARCH AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE WITH AUSTRALIA ESPECIALLY ON PADI CULTIVATION. --MORE 1606/HM
MAHATHIR-TV3 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AUSTRALIA HAD MANY SIMILARITIES WITH MALAYSIA IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND MANY OF THE TYPES OF CROPS GROWN THERE COULD ALSO THRIVE HERE.

HE SINGLED OUT PADI FARMING IN AUSTRALIA WHICH HE SAID WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL AND WHICH MALAYSIA COULD LEARN FROM. --BERNAMA 1610/HM