

MAHATHIR-AGREEMENT

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN '84

(P)

PORT MORESBY, AUG. 7 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA TODAY SIGNED A TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE THE ALREADY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND HIS PNG COUNTERPART, ENCIK MICHAEL SOMARE, IN A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE, ONLY FEW HOURS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MAGNIFICENT M\$70 MILLION BUILDING BY PRINCE CHARLES OF BRITAIN.

THE AGREEMENT? AMONG OTHER THINGS, SEEKS TO FORMALIZE ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE CURRENTLY EXTENDED BY MALAYSIA TO THE PNG.

IT COVERS THREE BROAD AREAS, NAMELY: -

- + EXCHANGE OF CONSULTANTS, EXPERTS, TECHNICIANS AND TRAINEES,
- + TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMICIANS AND TECHNICIANS, AND
- + ANY OTHER FORM OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION THAT BOTH COUNTRIES

MAY DECIDE FROM TIME TO TIME. --MORE

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MAHATHIR-AGREEMENT '2 PORT MORESEY

IN HIS SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS VERY PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO PNG UNDER THE +MODEST+ MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN 1980.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGREEMENT, MALAYSIA WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO EVEN CLOSER CONTACTS WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

+ I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WOULD BE WITNESSING AN INTENSIFICATION OF SUCH COOPERATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD, + HE SAID.

+ I HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE VARIOUS AREAS IN WHICH WE WOULD COOPERATE IN THE FUTURE. +

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIANS WOULD ALSO WELCOME WITH MUCH PLEASURE A GREATER EXCHANGE FLOW OF PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR EITHER VISIT PURPOSES OR TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS. --MORE

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R E329 AAE MAHATHIR-AGREEMENT 3 PORT MORESBY

HE FELT PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT WOULD, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, HELP BRING ABOUT A GREATER AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

DATUK S E R I DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF A COMMON DENOMINATOR THAT BOUND THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT LIKE PAPUA NEW GUINEA, MALAYSIA ALSO BELIEVED IN PRACTICAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, SHE STILL SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS FROM VARIOUS EXTERNAL SOURCES.

+NEVERTHELESS, UNDER THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, WE ARE PREPARED TO SHARE WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OUR EXPERIENCES AS WELL AS THE EXPERTISE WE HAVE DEVELOPED IN CERTAIN AREAS, + HE ADDED...

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE NEED FOR SMALL LIKE-MINDED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO INTERACT MUCH MORE MEANINGFULLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION. --MORE
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MAHATHIR-AGREEMENT 4 PORT MORESBY

HE SAID COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA AND PNG COULD LEARN FROM EACH OTHER HOW TO BUILD THEIR OWN NATIONAL RESILIENCE.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD LEARNT THE BITTER LESSON THAT RELYING ENTIRELY ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BRING SOLACE TO THEIR PEOPLE, HE ADDED.
--BERNAMA