

MAHATHIR-POVERTY

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 2 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL STICK TO ITS APPROACH OF ERADICATING POVERTY THROUGH INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY BY THE PEOPLE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR KOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD REALISE THAT THEY COULD NOT ENJOY THE SAME STANDARD OF LIVING AS THOSE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY JUST EXPECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE +THE BEST OF EVERYTHING+ FOR THEM.

THEY MUST ALSO ACCEPT CHANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN LIFESTYLES IN THE RURAL AREAS. AS ANOTHER PRICE OF PROGRESS APART FROM HARD WORK, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ACCIM) HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF NAIVITY AMONG +SOME QUITE INTELLIGENT MALAYSIANS+ THAT THE COUNTRY COULD GET +FOR FREE+ THE STANDARD OF LIVING ENJOYED BY PEOPLE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+HENCE WE HAVE THE PEOPLE DEMANDING THAT WE HAVE THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

-- BEST ROADS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, PAY SCHEMES, PENSIONS AND ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID, -- MORE

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THEY WANTED FORESTS AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS TO BE PRESERVED, LOWER TAXES AND LESS WORKING HOURS. THEY DID NOT WANT TOLLS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND +EVERYTHING THAT CAN RAISE MONEY FOR THE NATION AND THE GOVERNMENT?+ HE SAID.

+THE FACT IS THAT THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN HAVE THE GOODIES AND NOT PAY FOR THEM. THE PAYMENT MAY NOT BE DIRECT BUT IN THE END YOU MUST PAY,+ HE SAID.

THE AMENITIES THE PEOPLE WERE TAKING FOR GRANTED HAD TO BE FOREGONE IF THEY WANTED TO PRESERVE MALAYSIA IN ITS NATURAL STATE? WITH TROPICAL FORESTS AND ANIMALS AND +CUTE ATTAP HUTS.+

+THE MOST DETESTABLE THING IS WHEN CITY DWELLERS EARNING FAT SALARIES SHED CROCODILES TEARS OVER THE WAY THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS BEEN SPOILT AND THE BUCOLIC LIFE OF THE PEASANTS DISTURBED,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+AFTER LAMETING RURAL POVERTY AND SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS, THEY WOULD RETREAT TO THE COMFORT OF THEIR AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS AND CITY LIFE.+ -- MORE

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+POVERTY CAN ONLY BE DEFEATED IF SUFFICIENT PEOPLE MAKE MONEY LEGITIMATELY AND PAY THEIR TAXES SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN LAUNCH SCHEMES TO UPGRADE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE POOR,+ HE SAID

+DOLE DOES NOT ERADICATE POVERTY. LIKE DRUGS, IT ONLY REDUCES PEOPLE TO BECOMING DEPENDANTS. THE SOLE SOLUTION TO POVERTY IS INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY BY THE POOR.+ -- BERNAMA