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MAHATHI R-GI RO

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR THE INTRODUCTION IN THE MALAYSIAN POST OFFICE --OF THE GIRO SYSTEM THAT ENABLES CASHLESS TRANSACTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD HELP OVERCOME HUMAN CONGESTION AT POST OFFICES AS A GIRO ACCOUNT HOLDER NEED NOT GO TO A POST OFFICE FOR ANY TRANSACTION.

THE INDIVIDUAL COULD POST THE BILLS HE HAD TO SETTLE ALONG WITH A LETTER AUTHORIZING THE GIRO CENTRE TO CARRY OUT THE TRANSACTION.

+THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE USE OF THE GIRO SYSTEM IN THE POST OFFICE MUST BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 955.5 MILLION KUALA LUMPUR GENERAL POST OFFICE COMPLEX HERE, THE SECOND PHASE OF THE DAYABUMI PROJECT. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-GIRO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE 10-STOREY BUILDING, LOCATED ON 8,496 SQ. METRES, IS SAID TO BE THE MOST MODERN IN THE REGION.

IT HAS MECHANISED POSTAL EQUIPMENT COSTING \$8 MILLION, CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION TO MONITOR SECURITY INDOORS, 93 COUNTERS FOR THE VARIOUS POSTAL SERVICES, A STAMP GALLERY, PRAYER ROOMS AND TWO RESTAURANTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE POST OFFICE HAD TO INTRODUCE AN INTEGRATED-SYSTEM BY WAY OF THE GIRO SYSTEM TO HANDLE THE EVER-INCREASING COUNTER TRANSACTIONS THAT INVOLVED MANAGEMENT OF CASH IN VARIOUS FORMS.

HE SAID THE POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE PROGRESSIVELY SOPHISTICATED MECHANISATION THAT WOULD IMPROVE OVERALL SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN THE HANDLING OF MAIL AND COUNTER OPERATIONS.

THIS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE COUNTRY NOW HAD 517 POST OFFICES, 234 MOBILE POST OFFICES AND 1,568 POSTAL AGENTS COMPARED WITH ONLY 201 POST OFFICES, THREE MOBILE POST OFFICES AND 238 POSTAL AGENTS IN 1957, HE SAID.

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MAHATHIR-GIRO 3 KUALA LUMPUR

IN 1957, ON THE AVERAGE, AN INDIVIDUAL POSTED 13 ITEMS BUT LAST YEAR THE FIGURE HAD RISEN TO 51.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MECHANISATION OF THE COUNTER SERVICE WOULD ENHANCE EFFICIENCY, INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF AN EMPLOYEE AND REDUCE SPACE CONSTRAINTS AT POST OFFICES.

+WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE STAGE WHERE FACTORS SUCH AS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STAFF, POSTAL ORGANISATIONS AND MOTORISED VEHICLES NO LONGER FORM THE BASIS OF OVERCOMING PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE GROWTH OF POSTAL SERVICE NEEDS.

+QUALITATIVE GROWTH IS VERY NECESSARY FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT! THAT IS BY HANDLING MAIL AND COUNTER TRANSACTIONS MORE SPEEDILY AND EFFICIENTLY IN LINE WITH THE FAST-GROWING NATION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT DESPITE THE AVAILABILITY OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY THE POSTAL SERVICE WOULD BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD OF SERVICE THAT COULD BE PROVIDED BASED ON EXISTING TECHNOLOGY AND THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-GIRO 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERIDR MAHATHIR SAID THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE POSTAL NETWORK FORMED THE CLOSEST LINK BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF THE CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY CONCEPT EMPHASISED BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INFLUENCED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT BY THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUCH AS POSTMEN OR POSTAL COUNTER CLERKS.

STRESSING THAT THE HUMAN ELEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE FOCAL POINT OF POSTAL OPERATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE QUALITY OF POSTAL SERVICES DEPENDED ON THE EFFICIENCY AND CONDUCT OF EVERY EMPLOYEE.

*THE QUALITY OF SERVICE DEPENDS MUCH ON THE ATTITUDE OF STAFF TOWARDS THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

+IF STAFF DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE MODERN TECHNOLOGY WILL BE FUTILE, HOWEVER SOPHISTICATED THE TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE POST OFFICE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHED COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS - IN 15 SEN DENOMINATION PICTURING THE FACSIMILE SERVICE? 20 SEN DENOMINATION (THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING) AND \$1 DENOMINATION (THE MAILBAG CONVEYER SYSTEM).

DATUK SERIDR MAHATHIR, HIS WIFE AND ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS MINISTER DATUK LEO MOGGIE LATER TOURED THE STAMP GALLERY AND WATCHED HOW MAIL WAS BEING PROCESSED FOR DESPATCH. -- BERNAMA
1417MST 29 10 84

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