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INSTALLATION-MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXTENDED FELICITATIONS AND PLEDGED THE NATION'S UNDIVIDED LOYALTY TO THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS MAJESTY'S INSTALLATION.

+ON THIS HISTORIC AND AUSPICIOUS OCCASION, THE DAY OF YOUR MAJESTY'S INSTALLATION, MAY I ON BEHALF OF THE CABINET MINISTERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA, WITH GREAT JOY AND DEEP SINCERITY, EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR MAJESTY ON BEING ELECTED AND APPOINTED BY THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE RULERS TO BE THE SUPREME HEAD OF STATE AND THE EIGHTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG OF MALAYSIA.

+MAY I ALSO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO HER MAJESTY SULTANAH ZANARIAH ON BEING APPOINTED AS HER MAJESTY THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG, + HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY AT ISTANA NEGARA HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ALSO TOUCHED ON THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND ECONOMY AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY WAS WELL UNDER CONTROL AND PRAYED THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN-PEACE.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS ON CONSTANT ALERT AGAINST THOSE ELEMENTS BENT ON CAUSING DISUNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE.+

THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO INCULCATE IN THE PEOPLE POSITIVE VALUES TO ENSURE A PROSPEROUS AND PROGRESSIVE NATION SO THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE DETERMINED, DISCIPLINED AND HARDWORKING, NOT ONLY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT AND WELL-BEING BUT ALSO FOR THAT OF THE NATION, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE WAS EXPECTED TO RISE IN THE YEARS AHEAD FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING THE 'EFFECTS OF WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION.

IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE PARTICULARLY IN FORGING COOPERATION WITH ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

+IT IS HOPED SUCH REGIONAL COOPERATION WILL ENSURE THE NATION'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY AND THAT OF OUR NEIGHBOURS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STEP UP COOPERATION AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL AID TO OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REQUIRING SUCH AID.

-- SERNAME