

MAHATHIR-ARMADA
BM

LUMUT, NOV. 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, REMINDED ARMED FORCES MEMBERS TODAY THAT THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY LIES IN THEIR HANDS AND THEY SHOULD BE BRAVE AND POSITIVE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS WITHOUT DEPENDING ON OUTSIDE HELP.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY WOULD DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY AND IN DEFENDING THE COUNTRY, THEY SHOULD NOT BE OVER-DEPENDENT ON HELP FROM OTHERS.

+ALTHOUGH WE HAVE FRIENDS WHO CAN COME TO OUR AID IN THE EVENT OF A THREAT, WE MUST STILL REMEMBER THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS! THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY LIE IN OUR OWN HANDS.

+THE HELP THEY CAN GIVE, HOWEVER SINCERELY IS NECESSARILY LIMITED. WE ARE THE ONES ON WHOM THE FATE AND FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY DEPEND, + HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY (RMN) FLEET COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS AT THE RMN BASE

THE HEADQUARTERS IS THE RMN'S BIGGEST OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL RMN FLEET MOVEMENTS.

THE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS IS THE MOST MODERN IN THE REGION WITH DIRECT, COMPUTER COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY WITH RMN VESSELS AT SEA UP TO 2,000 TO 5,000 NAUTICAL MILES.

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HE REMINDED ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL TO BE CONSTANTLY VIGILANT TO DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRING IN THE REGION NOTWITHSTANDING THE SITUATION OF PEACE AND WEL-BEING PREVAILING IN THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO SAID MODERN WEAPONS OF ANY DEFENCE FORCE DID NOT BY THEMSELVES GUARANTEE SUCCESS. MORE IMPORTANT WERE DISCIPLINED, MOTIVATED, DEDICATED AND EFFICIENT PERSONNEL.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE PERSONNEL THEMSELVES ARE THE ONES PUTTING THE WEAPONS TO USE, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE FACILITIES ARE FULLY USED AND ULTIMATELY, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WILL ENSURE SUCCESS AND VICTORY.

HE STRESSED THAT DISCIPLINE, SKILLS, MOTIVATION AND EFFICIENCY OF ARMED FORCES MEMBERS COULD NOT BE NEGLECTED AND THEY MUST ALWAYS BE BRAVE AND POSITIVE IN DISCHARGING THEIR DAILY DUTIES.

DESCRIBING DISCIPLINE AS THE BACKBONE OF THE ARMED FORCES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITHOUT A HIGH LEVEL OF DISCIPLINE, THERE COULD BE NO PROPER FULFILLMENT OF TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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EXPRESSING PRIDE IN THE HIGH LEVEL OF DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMED FORCES, HE HOPED EFFORTS TO FURTHER IMPROVE DISCIPLINE WOULD ALWAYS BE AN ON-GOING PROCESS.

ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE RMN, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY WITH ITS PROGRESS AND ACQUISITION OF MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IN LINE WITH THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES.

DEFENCE MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI YUSOF ABDUL RAHMAN, IN BRIEFING THE PRIME MINISTER, SAID SEVERAL PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR THE BASE HAD TO BE SHELVED BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC RECESSION.

THE RMN PROJECT HERE WAS THE MINISTRY'S BIGGEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, INVOLVING AN ALLOCATION OF 31.2 BILLION -- \$600 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE BASE AND \$600 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHIPYARD.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CAREFUL AND PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF THE FINANCES WOULD TRIM DOWN THE ESTIMATED COST OF \$1.2 BILLION.

--BERNAMA

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