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MAHATHIR-VALUES
BM

ALOR SETAR, NOV. 30 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUKSERI DR
MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO DISCARD THE
+INDIVIDUALISTIC AND DOING YOUR OWN THING+ SYNDROME WHICH HE SAID
HAD BEGUN TO CREEP INTO MALAYSIAN SOCIETY.

THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE A SENSE OF SOME RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS
SOCIETY AND NOT ADOPT THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF SELF-IMPORTANCE, HE
SAID WHEN OPENING THE 9TH BIENNIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE AND 8TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST MALAYSIA MALAY TEACHERS UNION'S
COOPERATIVE AT THE UNIVERSITI UTARA IN TANJUNGPAAH, ABOUT 17KM FROM
HERE.

+THERE ARE NOW NEW VALUES ARISING FROM THE ATTITUDE THAT THE
SELF IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOCIETY.

+THESE VALUES ARE FAR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE PRACTISED BY US IN
THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE PEOPLE SUBSCRIBED TO THE
WESTERN BELIEF THAT SELF WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOCIETY AND
THEREFORE HAD TO SEARCH FOR A SELF-FULFILLING LIFE'.

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE STANDARD OF
EDUCATION HAD BEEN UPGRADED, SOME AMONG THE EDUCATED ADOPTED
ATTITUDES THAT WERE NOT CONSONANT WITH MALAYSIAN SOCIETY NORMS.

ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT GO TO THE WESTERN EXTREME OF NUDE BATHING,
FOR EXAMPLE, +THERE ARE INSTANCES WHERE WE ARE NOT BASHFUL ABOUT
DANCING IN SUPERMARKETS, WEARING WHATEVER WE LIKE AND DOING WHATEVER
WE WANT,+ HE ADDED.

IT WAS HOWEVER MORE SADDENING TO FIND THAT WELL-EDUCATED PEOPLE,
WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY
OVERSEAS, TURNED OUT TO BE INGRATES.

THEY DID NOT REPAY THEIR STUDY LOANS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ON
TOP OF THAT DECLARED THAT SOCIETY OWED THEM A DEBT' AND NOT THE OTHER
WAY ROUND, HE SAID.

+THEY DO NOT RESPECT SOCIETY AT ALL. THEY THINK THEY CAN DO
ANYTHING THEY LIKE.+

DATUKSERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL AND
NOT ONLY TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO TEACH GOOD VALUES TO CHILDREN.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO INCULCATE GOOD VALUES SUCH
AS BEING CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS
OF SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG WHO COMPRISED SO PER CENT OF THE
POPULATION, WERE PEOPLE OF GOOD CHARACTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THE NATION WOULD NOT FACE ANY PROBLEM IF
THE PEOPLE HAD HIGH MORAL VALUES.

+IF WE HAVE PROBLEMS NOW, IT IS BECAUSE WE LACK TRUST'
EFFICIENCY, DISCIPLINE AND OTHER VALUES THAT BRING PROSPERITY TO
ALL,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CRITICIZED CERTAIN QUARTERS WHICH
SUBSCRIBED TO THE MALTHUSIAN THEORY OF HIGHER POPULATION BRINGING
DIRE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS SHORTAGE OF FOOD AND
SHELTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT OTHERWISE AND WAS
CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FACILITIES IN THE
FUTURE WHEN THE POPULATION INCREASED.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THAT HAD
BEEN BUILT IN MALAYSIA COMPARED TO THE NUMBER PROVIDED IN OTHER
COUNTRIES.

IN MALAYSIA, ONE COULD SEE TWO OR THREE "NEW SCHOOLS EVERY TWO OR
THREE MILES (KILOMETRES) BUT NOT IN EUROPE WHERE ONE ONLY SAW OLD
SCHOOLS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO INTENSIVE INCREASE IN THE POPULATION,
HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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