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SEMENYIH, DEC. 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TODAY TOLD MALAYSIANS TO FORMULATE THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND TO UPGRADE THE LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS TO HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DEPEND SOLELY ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INITIATING THEIR OWN SELF-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

+ALL OF US SHOULD HAVE PROGRAMMES TO RAISE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING, TO INCREASE OUR INCOME, TO WORK HARD FOR A HIGHER POSITION AND ALSO FOR THE GOOD OF OUR RACE AND OUR COMMUNITY.

+PARENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD PLAN TO PROVIDE HIGHER EDUCATION UP TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD BE RESPECTED BY THE COMMUNITY, + HE TOLD THE MORE THAN 5,000 RESIDENTS OF SEMENYIH AT A GATHERING AT THE TOWN PADANG TO MARK THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SELANGOR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT WITHOUT THEIR OWN PROGRAMME FOR A BETTER LIFE, THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT ACHIEVE SUCCESS DESPITE THE MANY PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED FOR THEIR BENEFIT. ---MORE
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+THE GOVERNMENT CAN UNDERTAKE ALL KINDS OF PROGRAMMES BUT THEY WILL NOT BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED RESULTS IF THE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT, + HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE PEOPLE AND NATION TO PROGRESS SO THAT THE WORLD WOULD LOOK UP TO MALAYSIA.

+AND THAT IS WHY I ALWAYS STRESS THAT THE PEOPLE MUST WORK HARD, BE DISCIPLINED AND TRUSTWORTHY IN ALL MY SPEECHES DURING MY TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE COUNTRY, + HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT BELIEVE IN FALSE PROMISES.

HE SAID THAT HE COULD HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, ANNOUNCED AT THE GATHERING THAT HE WOULD ALLOCATE MILLIONS OF RINGGIT FOR THIS AREA, -BUT, THE GOVERNMENT OF TODAY DOES NOT BELIEVE IN MAKING PROMISES WHICH CANNOT BE FULFILLED, +

+WE PROMISE TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR ALL BUT WE ALSO STRESS TO THE PEOPLE THAT THEY MUST HAVE GOOD VALUES TO STEER THE NATION TO PROGRESS. IF OUR DREAMS ARE SHATTERED, THEN THE NATION AND PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE POOR AND BE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY THE WORLD. + -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THERE WERE QUARTERS WHICH FELT THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT PLACED TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON CONCEPTS LIKE +CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY GOVERNMENT+ AND +LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE+.

HE SAID THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN THE PEOPLE WOULD REALISE THAT THE CONCEPTS WERE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.

HE SAID THE CONCEPTS WERE CREATED SOLELY TO SPUR THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY COULD BE PROUD OF POSSESSING GOOD VALUES WHICH COULD LEAD TO THEIR SUCCESS AND THAT OF THE NATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND NOT TO EXPECT QUICK GAINS BUT INSTEAD STRIVE FOR A LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, IF COMPARED TO PREVIOUS TIMES, WAS NOW MORE RESPECTED BY THE WORLD THAN ANY OTHER DEVELOPING NATION.

AS WE ARE NOW KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A PEACEFUL NATION WITH EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL STABILITY, THE NATION'S LEADERS ARE GIVEN GOOD TREATMENT DURING THEIR VISITS OVERSEAS. THE WORLD'S RESPECT TOWARDS US COULD ALSO BE GAUGED BY THE ALMOST WEEKLY VISITS MADE BY FOREIGN LEADERS TO THIS COUNTRY. + -- BERNAMA