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MAHATHIR-OFFICERS
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ALOR SETAR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOLD GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO EXERCISE THRIFT AND CARE WHEN SPENDING PUBLIC FUNDS.

EVERY PROJECT SHOULD BE PLANNED CAREFULLY WITH A VIEW TO CUTTING DOWN ON COSTS, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AT A DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING GIVEN BY MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OSMAN AROFF AT WISMA NEGERI HERE.

SPENDING SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES OF A PARTICULAR STATE AND GRANDEUR PROJECTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

WHERE PRIVATE SPENDING IS CONCERNED, GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SHOULD ALSO BE THRIFTY AND SHOULD NOT SPEND BEYOND THEIR MEANS, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+AS GOVERNMENT OFFICERS YOU SHOULD SPEND WISELY AND BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE PEOPLE IN LINE WITH LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT MANY OF THE PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED WERE NOT GIVING THE EXPECTED RETURNS.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WERE INCURRING LOSSES NOT BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY OR EXPERTISE BUT BECAUSE OF MISMANAGEMENT.

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SHOULD UPGRADE THEIR MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND AVOID WASTAGE OR LOSSES.

APART FROM WEAK MANAGEMENT, THE COUNTRY'S PRODUCTIVITY IN ALL FIELDS INCLUDING THE AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING SECTORS WAS LOW WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE

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A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS TAIWAN COULD PRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY GOODS AT LOWER COSTS THAN MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

TAIWAN IMPORTS MARBLE AND YET WAS ABLE TO SELL MARBLE PRODUCTS CHEAPER IN THE WORLD MARKET THAN MALAYSIA.

FRUIT AND MAIZE PRODUCTION COSTS IN THAILAND WERE TWO TIMES LOWER THAN IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

STUDIES HAD SHOWN THAT FOR EVERY RINGGIT SPENT ON PADI PRODUCTION THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO CHIP IN 50 SEN IN THE FORM OF SUBSIDIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED AN ALLOCATION OF \$94 MILLION TO KEDAH UNDER THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN, \$900 MILLION UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN AND \$2,600 MILLION UNDER THE CURRENT MALAYSIA PLAN. -- MORE

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+THE PROBLEM OF NO FUNDS SHOULD NOT ARISE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT SPENDING SHOULD BE ORDERLY AND WELL PLANNED.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED KEDAH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WOULD BE CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY IN ADMINISTERING THE STATE.

HE HOPED THEY WOULD NOT LET HIM DOWN AS HE HIMSELF WAS FROM KEDAH.

KEDAH SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER STATES IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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