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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DIRECTED THAT MORE PUBLICATIONS, NEWS AND FILMS ON MALAYSIA BE DISSEMINATED AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AMONG THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO ISSUED THE DIRECTIVE AT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING, SAID THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES TO KNOW MALAYSIA BETTER.

INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM, WHO TOLD THIS TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING, SAID THAT AT THE MOMENT MATERIALS SUCH AS FILMS, FEATURES AND OTHER ITEMS THAT COULD +SELL+ MALAYSIA TO THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WERE LACKING.

DURING HIS VISIT TO SWEDEN, NORWAY, FINLAND, DENMARK AND AUSTRIA RECENTLY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD SAID THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THOSE COUNTRIES SPENT THE WINTER MONTHS IN TROPICAL COUNTRIES AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT BE WOODED TO VISIT MALAYSIA.

AT TODAY'S CABINET MEETING, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING FACILITIES THAT COULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE AVERAGE TOURIST FROM THE SCANDIVANIAN COUNTRIES BESIDES GIVING ATTENTION TO THE SETTING UP OF FIRST-CLASS HOTELS. -- MORE

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DATUK RAIS SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO HAVE COMPLETE TOUR PACKAGES TO DRAW MORE TOURISTS TO MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO WANTED THE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THE PROVISION OF MODERATELY-PRICED ACCOMMODATION FOR TOURISTS.

DATUK RAIS SAID THE INFORMATION MINISTRY WOULD PLAY A MORE SYSTEMATIC ROLE IN HELPING TO ENSURE THAT EFFORTS TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT EFFECTIVELY.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER BODIES LIKE THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WOULD ALSO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS THIS END, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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