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NIBONG TEBAL, AUG 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE RAKYAT TODAY TO BE RESOURCEFUL IF THEY WANT TO BE PROSPEROUS.

WHAT MIGHT APPEAR LACKING IN THEIR MAKE-UP COULD BE OFF-SET IF THEY USED THEIR INTELLIGENCE, ENERGY AND ABILITY BECAUSE THOSE GOD-GIVEN QUALITIES SURELY HAD THEIR PRACTICAL USE IN EVERYDAY LIFE, HE TOLD A GATHERING OF 5,000 PEOPLE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SUNGAI CHENA'AM INTEGRATED LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HERE.

+IF WE MERELY SIT BACK, AND WALLOW IN SELF-PITY AT OUR FATE IN BEING POOR, HOW ARE WE GOING TO BE RICH?+ HE ASKED.

HE URGED THOSE WHO LACKED IMAGINATION OR WERE ILLITERATE TO SEEK OUT THE EDUCATED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE FROM AMONG THEIR MIDST TO GIVE IDEAS.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY HAD EARNESTLY TRIED THEIR BEST TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE SHACKLES OF POVERTY.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE WOULD FIND A WAY TO RICHES IF THEY WENT AND SOUGHT IT.

IT WAS NOT THAT IMPORTANT IF THE RESOURCES WERE DEEMED UNSUITABLE AS WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT WAS THAT THEY DID ATTEMPT TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF IT, HE SAID.

+TAKE FOR INSTANCE, RUBBERWOOD. IN THE PAST, WE NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD BE USED FOR ANYTHING ELSE EXCEPT AS FIREWOOD AND COAL BUT NOW BEAUTIFUL PIECES OF FURNITURE ARE BEING CREATED OUT OF RUBBERWOOD,+ HE SAID.

CITING ANOTHER EXAMPLE, HE SAID THERE WERE SOME NATIONS WHOSE LAND WAS ROCKY AND UNSUITABLE FOR FARMING. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE STUBBORN UNYIELDING FAITH AND CREATIVITY OF THE PEOPLE, THE ROCKS WERE USED FOR BUILDING AND SCULPTURE FOR SALE AND THEY GOT RICH FROM SELLING THE PRODUCTS TO THEIR NEIGHBOURS WHO HAD FERTILE LAND. --

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THE PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, SHOULD SEEK TO TURN TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE THE ENVIRONMENT GOD HAD CREATED AND MAKE PRACTICAL USE OF WHAT THEY HAD AROUND THEM.

HE ALSO SAID FACILITIES AND CAPITAL OBTAINED THROUGH POLITICAL RESOLVE WERE TRANSIENT IN NATURE AND WOULD NOT GIVE REAL BENEFITS IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT EARNESTLY WORK FOR THEM.

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE VISIT WAS AGRICULTURE MINISTER ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM, CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU, EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI AND DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR GOH CHENG TEIK. -- BERNAMA

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