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MAHATHIR-AIRPORT
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KERTIH, AUG 15 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY TOLD STATE GOVERNMENTS TO DROP ANY TENDENCY TO SHOW OFF AND COMPETE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN SETTING UP INDUSTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE WHEN SIMILAR FACILITIES ALREADY EXIST SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DID NOT WANT A SITUATION THAT COULD LEAD TO WASTAGE OF CAPITAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES BY NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RULES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OPENING THE \$75 MILLION KERTIH AIRPORT WHICH FORMS PART OF THE SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD AND HIS WIFE DATUK PUAN HAJAH AISHAHTUN SUHAIMI, PETRONAS CHAIRMAN RAJA TAN SRI MOHAR RAJA BADIOZAMAN AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED ALL MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS FELL IN LINE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RATIONALISING OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES TO PREVENT UNREASONABLE OR OVERLAPPING DEVELOPMENT. --MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN INDUSTRIES WERE PLANNED TO PREVENT DUPLICATION AND IT MUST ALSO BE ENSURED THAT SUCH INDUSTRIES WERE NOT SET UP MERELY TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ONE PARTICULAR STATE.

THERE WERE STILL STATES THAT DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RULES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND SET UP NEW INDUSTRIES THAT RESULTED IN WASTAGE OF FUNDS AND ENERGY, HE SAID.

IF A PARTICULAR STATE HAD SET UP AN IMPORT SUBSTITUTION INDUSTRY IN A PARTICULAR FIELD THEN THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ANOTHER STATE TO SET UP A SIMILAR INDUSTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT SAYING STATE GOVERNMENTS' ENTHUSIASM TO DEVELOP THEIR STATES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WAS NOT GOOD BUT WAS ONLY REMINDING THEM THAT THE SETTING UP OF INDUSTRIES SHOULD NOT BE FOR THE SAKE OF PRESTIGE.

REFERRING TO THE \$75 MILLION SPENT BY PETRONAS ON THE AIRPORT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE CORPORATION TO SPEND ITS MONEY WISELY. -- MORE
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ALTHOUGH PETRONAS WAS THE RICHEST CORPORATION IN THE COUNTRY, IT SHOULD NOT SPEND ITS MONEY INDISCRIMINATELY AS IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE MONEY BELONGED TO THE NATION AND SHOULD BE SPENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE WANTED PETRONAS TO MANAGE ITS EXPENDITURE WISELY TO AVOID WASTAGE OF FUNDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AT FIRST HE THOUGHT THE KERTIH AIRPORT WAS JUST AN AIR STRIP BUT TODAY SAW THAT THE AIRPORT COMPLEX WAS MORE EYE-CATCHING AND MODERN THAN THE KUALA TERENGGANU AIRPORT AND MANY OTHER AIRPORTS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

IN A LIGHTER VEIN, HE SAID TERENGGANU ATTACHED MORE IMPORTANCE TO THE QUALITY OF ITS AIRPORTS FOR THE KERTIH AIRPORT WHICH COULD ONLY CATER FOR FOKKER FRIENDSHIP AIRCRAFT COST \$75 MILLION WHILE THE LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHICH COULD TAKE AIRBUS AIRCRAFT COST \$75 MILLION. -- BERNAMA
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