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 KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY IS NOT CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM AND TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE PREVAILING SITUATION, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT HALF OF THE POPULATION ARE NON-MUSLIMS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY THINGS CONSIDERED +HARAM+ (NOT SANCTIONED BY RELIGION) BY MUSLIMS WERE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE SO BY NON-MUSLIMS.

+WE CANNOT FORCE THEM (THE NON-MUSLIMS) TO PRACTICE THE TEACHING OF ISLAM. IF WE TRY TO DO SO, THEY WILL FIND WAYS TO NEGATE OUR EFFORTS,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 36TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT DEWAN MERDEKA OF THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

THIS WOULD ALSO DAMAGE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS AND COULD CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO BE +MUNAFIK+ (HYPOCRITICAL IN RELIGION) BY PUTTING ON A SHOW OF BEING RELIGIOUS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY BUT COMMIT SIN WHENEVER WE ARE ABROAD,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN HIS 113-PAGE POLICY SPEECH WITH THE THEME +THE COMMUNITY AND NATIONALISM+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WE DO NOT WANT TO SAY ONE THING BUT DO ANOTHER.+

+THE NAME OF ISLAM HAS OFTEN BEEN SMEARED AND THE MUSLIMS LAUGHED AT BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF A GROUP OF HYPROCRITES AMONG THE MUSLIMS THEMSELVES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT UMNO DID NOT WANT TO BECOME A HYPROCRITE NOR TO MAKE INTERPRETATIONS THAT WERE MORE RIGID THAN THAT ADVOCATED BY ISLAM AND LATER COMMIT ACTS THAT WERE CONTRARY TO THE INTERPRETATIONS MADE.

HE SAID THAT IN EFFORTS TO PRACTISE AND PROPOGATE ISLAM, THE FLEXIBILITY PROVIDED BY THE RELIGION SHOULD BE USED, IF NECESSARY, AND THIS WOULD BENEFIT THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE LONG RUN.

+AS SUCH, WE BEGIN WITH THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
 1055MST 27 09 85

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+IF WE SUCCEED IN ENSURING THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS CLEAN, EFFICIENT, TRUSTWORTHY, DISCIPLINED, DILIGENT, COURTEOUS, RESPONSIBLE AND HOLD IN HIGH ESTEEM OTHER NOBLE VALUES, ISLAM WILL BE PROPAGATED AND WE WILL HAVE HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD AND THE HEREAFTER,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS THE GOVERNMENT WAS EMPHASISING ON THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN ITS ADMINISTRATION.

HE SAID THAT PUTTING ON THE ATTIRE AND APPEARANCE OF A MUSLIM WOULD HAVE NO MEANING UNLESS THE VALUES OF ISLAM WERE PRACTISED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT +WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ENEMIES WITH THOSE WHO CONSIDER THAT APPEARANCE OF BEING A MUSLIM IS IMPORTANT BUT THEY SHOULD NOT CONSIDER OTHERS WHO DO NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO THIS AS BEING LESS OF A MUSLIM.+

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT IF THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS ON ISLAM, THIS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AND NOT BECOME A CAUSE FOR DISUNITY.

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 1124MST 27 09 85

ON THE COUNTRY'S SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA CHOSE THIS SYSTEM AND NOT A REPUBLIC ADMINISTRATION +BECAUSE WHEN WE WERE STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE THE RULERS IN GENERAL GAVE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO THE NATIONALISTIC MOVEMENT.+

THE RULERS DID NOT STRONGLY OPPOSE THE MOVEMENT AS IN INDONESIA AND INDIA, HE SAID.

AS SUCH, HE SAID +THERE WAS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD CHOOSE A REPUBLIC SYSTEM WITH THE PRESIDENT AS HEAD OF STATE.+

HE SAID THE SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY MEANT THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO THE PEOPLE, WITH THE KING BEING THE SYMBOLIC HEAD.

+THE REAL ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED BY THE PEOPLE THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

BECAUSE THE KING WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND NOT ALIGNED TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY, THE LOYALTY OF THE PEOPLE WAS NOT DIVIDED, HE SAID.

THE PEOPLE WERE THUS NOT INFLUENCED BY POLITICAL VIEWS OR IDEOLOGIES IN THEIR LOYALTY TO THE NATION AND KING, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1143MST 27 09 85

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MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING WELL AND POLITICIANS DID NOT TRY TO INVOLVE THE RULERS, THERE ARE NOW OTHERS WHO WISH TO USE THE POSITION OF THE RULERS FOR THEIR OWN SELF-INTERESTS FROM TIME TO TIME,+ HE SAID.

BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTED THE RULERS AND DREW UP A CONSTITUTION THAT PROTECTED THEIR INTERESTS, PEOPLE WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES FELT THAT BY INVOLVING THE RULERS IN THEIR PERSONAL ACTIVITIES, THEY COULD ALSO ENJOY SIMILAR PROTECTION AND IGNORE THE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

+THEY PLAN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AIMED AT WINNING OVER THE RULERS AND TRY TO GET ROYAL PARTICIPATION IN THEIR BUSINESS VENTURES.

+NOT ONLY DO THEY HOPE TO INFLUENCE THE AUTHORITIES THROUGH THIS WAY, BUT ALSO TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST OTHER ENTREPRENEURS, ESPECIALLY BUMIPUTERAS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEIR ACTIVITIES HAD INEVITABLY TARNISHED THE GOOD NAME OF THE RULERS AMONG THE RAKYAT. IF THEIR ACTIVITIES CONTINUED, THE RAKYAT'S PERCEPTION OF THE RULERS WOULD BE COLOURED AND THE RAKYAT WOULD START QUESTIONING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY SYSTEM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1214MST 27 09 85

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MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO CONCEAL THIS MALPRACTICE TO SAFEGUARD THE GOOD NAME OF THE RULERS.

HOWEVER, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE PRACTICE OF USING THE RULERS' INFLUENCE HAD REACHED THE PEOPLE'S EARS, HE ADDED.

+BEFORE THE PEOPLE DEVELOP ANY FURTHER MISCONCEPTIONS, I WANT TO ADVISE AND ALSO WARN THOSE WHO TRY TO MAKE USE OF THE RULERS FOR THEIR OWN BUSINESS INTERESTS THAT THEY SHOULD PUT A HALT TO THESE ACTIVITIES.+

+WE DO NOT WANT THE SYSTEM OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY TO BE QUESTIONED BY THE PEOPLE. WE, AND UMNO IN PARTICULAR, HOLD THIS SYSTEM IN HIGH ESTEEM AND WE DO NOT WANT THIS SYSTEM TO BE PUT IN JEOPARDY AND TO BE CHALLENGED ALL BECAUSE OF THE GREED OF SOME PEOPLE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD +BLACKLIST+ THOSE WHO INDULGED IN SUCH PRACTICES AND WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN ANY BUSINESS VENTURES THAT CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.

+WE WILL ALSO EXPOSE THEIR ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TARNISHING THE IMAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY SYSTEM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1233MST 27 09 85

MAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE ECONOMY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA, AS A NATION THAT ALSO RELIED ON EXTERNAL TRADE, WOULD INEVITABLY FEEL THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION.

+WE SHOULD BE THRIFTY AND CONTROL OUR EXPENDITURE. THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT CAN NO LONGER BE IMPLEMENTED AS RAPIDLY AS BEFORE, AND PROJECTS AND SUBSIDIES HAVE TO BE REDUCED.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN CONTRACTED OUT, OR THOSE WHERE WORK HAD ALREADY BEGUN, WOULD STILL BE CARRIED OUT. IF THEY WERE CANCELLED, HIGH COMPENSATION COSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO THOSE CONCERNED WHICH WOULD RESULT IN LOSSES.

+AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSE WATCH ON OUR FINANCES, OUR FINANCIAL POSITION IS HEALTHY COMPARED TO MOST DEVELOPING NATIONS NOT ONLY IN THIS REGION BUT OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY COULD NOT DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ALONE AND EACH AND EVERYONE, BE HE AN EMPLOYER OR SALARIED WORKER, HAD A RESPONSIBLE ROLE TO PLAY. -- MORE
1239MST 27 09 85

MAHATHIR 8 KUALA LUMPUR

+THE HUE AND CRY BY WORKERS AND THE ANALYSIS BY EXPERTS AT SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS WILL NOT BRING ANY GOOD IF WE DO NOT BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY AND INCREASE OUR PRODUCTIVITY.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A LITTLE SACRIFICE SO THAT THE COUNTRY'S DEBTS WOULD NOT INCREASE TOO RAPIDLY TO THE EXTENT WHERE THE REMAINING FUNDS BECAME INSUFFICIENT TO MEET MANAGEMENT EXPENSES.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THE LEADERS OF CIVIL SERVANTS UNIONS HAVE THREATENED THAT IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET, THEY WILL STRIKE.

+DOES HOLDING A STRIKE MEAN THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE RESOURCES TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL SALARIES?+ HE ASKED.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT THE STRIKE WILL AFFECT THE ECONOMY AND REDUCE THE RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT. BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WILL BE INTERRUPTED AND BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS WOULD BE SCARED OFF,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1315MST 27 09 85

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MAHATHIR 9 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY TO ITS STAFF BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

HE SAID THE ECONOMIC RECESSION HAD RESULTED IN THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR BEING UNEMPLOYED AND MANY HAD LOST THEIR JOBS IN A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY.

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT A SINGLE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE HAD BEEN TERMINATED BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION.

+IN FACT, SOME OF THEM HAVE RECEIVED WAGE INCREASES AS HIGH AS 12 PER CENT, THAT IS, MORE THAN A MONTH'S SALARY IN A YEAR. THERE ARE ALSO SOME WHO HAVE BEEN UPGRADED AS WELL AS THEIR ALLOWANCES.+

+SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT GIVE IN TO ITS OWN STAFF WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 10 KUALA LUMPUR

+I AM DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THOSE WHO ARE MORE FORTUNATE ARE THREATENING THE STABILITY OF THE NATION AND PERHAPS EVEN THE RICE-BOWL OF OTHERS,+ HE STRESSED.

+WE KNOW WE WILL SOON HOLD A GENERAL ELECTION AND WE NEED WHATEVER SUPPORT WE CAN GARNER.

+BUT, THE BARISAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT WILLING TO LEAD THE NATION INTO BANKRUPTCY IN ORDER TO WIN VOTES. WE WILL STAND FIRM IN FACING THE CHALLENGES AND THREATS.+

+THE WAGE INCREASE WHICH WE HAVE AGREED TO HAS ALREADY AFFECTED THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT SELL THE NATION FOR FEAR OF LOSING SEATS,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT NOT ALL CIVIL SERVANTS WANTED TO STRIKE.

THOSE WHO WANTED TO DO SO WERE THE UNION LEADERS WHO HAD BIG AMBITIONS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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