

D170

U E922 DEE
MAHATHIR-ERA
BM

85

(P)

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO CULTIVATE VALUES SUITABLE FOR THE PRESENT ERA HAVE BEEN OPPOSED BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

THESE GROUPS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMED TO HAVE WON THE CONFIDENCE AND ESTEEM OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SUCH GROUPS HAD A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE AND THIS HAD RESULTED IN SOME CONFUSION REGARDING THE VALUES THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD ADOPT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, IN BRINGING DEVELOPMENT TO THE NATION, DID NOT NEGLECT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HAD SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THIS END, BUT THE ABOVE SITUATION HAD CREATED SOME PROBLEMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN THE MAIDEN ISSUE OF A LOCAL WEEKLY, +ERA+. THE INTERVIEW TOUCHES ON THE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED.

HE DESCRIBED THIS AS UNFORTUNATE AS PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER AND HAD EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION WERE SPREADING CONFUSION AND GETTING THE ATTENTION AND WERE HELD IN ESTEEM BY SOCIETY.--MORE
1844MST 01 03 85

D171

U E923 DEE
MAHATHIR-ERA 2.KUALA LUMPUR

+WE WANT TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY AND WE KNOW THIS WILL BRING BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE. THIS IS EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND I THINK THE PEOPLE WILL READILY ACCEPT THAT DEVELOPMENT IS GOOD.+

+UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE GROUPS WHICH SAY THAT DEVELOPMENT IS NOT GOOD AND THEY PUT FORWARD VARIOUS REASONS. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE MUDA IRRIGATION SCHEME IS OF NO BENEFIT TO THE FARMERS BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN FORCED TO CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIFE -- FROM A PEACEFUL KAMPUNG LIFE TO A RAT RACE IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SOCIETY.+

SUCH TALK HAD CAUSED CONFUSION AMONG THE PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

REFERRING TO THE COMMENTS THAT HE WAS TOO HASTY IN INTRODUCING NEW IDEAS SO MUCH SO THAT OTHER LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WERE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP PACE, HE SAID +I SEE NO REASON WHY THIS SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS IT DOES NOT BURDEN ANYONE.+

+HASTY OR NOT, IT IS A RELATIVE MATTER. IF WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ORDINARY, THIS WILL AFFECT THOSE HOLDING TO ORDINARY VIEWS.+ -- MORE
1846MST 01 03 85

0173

U E927 DEE
MAHATHIR-ERA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS NOW UNDERSTOOD THE VISION THAT HAD BEEN HAD SET AND THEY ONLY NEEDED LEADERSHIP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THAT VISION.

HE SAID HE DID NOT SET THE VISION. ALL COUNTRIES ASPIRED DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS AND THE VISION HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE AND IT WAS NOW CLEARER AS IT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN WORDS.

REFERRING TO UNITY AND AS TO WHETHER HE HAD ANY FORMULA BETTER THAN THOSE BY PAST LEADERS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID +THE FORMULA IS THE SAME BUT THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED.+

WHEN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN WAS THE LEADER, THE PEOPLE CAME FROM SCHOOLS WHERE THEY STUDIED TOGETHER, MIXED WITH ALL RACES AND BECAUSE OF THIS THEY UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENT THINKING OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+NOW, BECAUSE OF CERTAIN ACTIONS WE HAVE ISOLATED OURSELVES, TO THE EXTENT THAT IN UNIVERSITIES THE DIFFERENT RACES DO NOT MIX AT ALL.+

HE SAID THAT UNDER SUCH A DIVIDED SITUATION IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CREATE AN INTEGRATED ENTITY.

ONCE THE STUDENTS LEFT THE UNIVERSITIES THEY MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS COOPERATING, HE SAID. -- MORE

1850MST 01 03 85

D181

U E932 DEE
MAHATHIR-ERA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THAT THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT WAS HAMPERED AND SUSPICION AMONG THE RACES WAS STRONG.

REFERRING TO NATIONAL MANPOWER PLANNING, HE SAID A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM THE SCIENCE STREAM WERE UNEMPLOYED NOT BECAUSE THERE WERE NO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE CHOOSY.

IN JAPAN, HE SAID, A PERSON QUALIFIED IN ENGINEERING FIRST BEGAN WORK AS A FACTORY HAND BEFORE WORKING IN AN AIR-CONDITIONED ROOM AS AN OFFICER.

ON THE APPARENT ANTAGONISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE FOREIGN PRESS TOWARDS MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID +THE FEELING AMONG THAT PRESS IS THAT A NATION RULED BY MUSLIMS WILL NOT POSSIBLY SUCCEED.+

THEY FELT THAT THIS COUNTRY COULD NOT SUCCEED AND ITS SUCCESS THEREFORE HAD +FRUSTRATED+ THEM, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1902MST 01 03 85