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MAHATHIR-KAMPUNG
BM

JERANTUT, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON PEOPLE LIVING IN TRADITIONAL KAMPUNGS TO MAKE A SMALL SACRIFICE AND MOVE TO PLANNED KAMPUNGS SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND VOLUNTARILY MOVE TO THE AREAS DESIGNATED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS MODERN GROWTH CENTRES, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OPENING A HANDICRAFT WORKSHOP AND SIMULTANEOUSLY LAUNCHING A PLANNED KAMPUNG PROGRAMME AT KAMPUNG PASIR DURIAN, 50 KM FROM HERE.

HE SAID THE GAP BETWEEN THE RURAL KAMPUNGS AND THE URBAN AREAS IN TERMS OF AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES WAS VERY WIDE.

THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS SO MUCH CHEAPER TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN URBAN AREAS THAN IN TRADITIONAL KAMPUNGS WHICH WERE DISPERSED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY'S PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION DID NOT PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY THE PEOPLE ALL THE INFRA-STRUCTURE FACILITIES THEY WANTED. -- MORE

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PLANNED KAMPUNGS WOULD FACILITATE GOVERNMENT PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO THE PEOPLE AND AT A LOWER COST TOO.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED KAMPUNG DWELLERS TO MAKE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THEIR AREAS SUCH AS BAMBOO, CLAY AND RATTAN TO SET UP COTTAGE INDUSTRIES MANUFACTURING HANDICRAFT.

HE SAID THE KAMPUNG PASIR DURIAN HANDICRAFT CENTRE BASED ON THE POTTERY INDUSTRY WAS A FINE EXAMPLE OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY THAT OTHER KAMPUNGS COULD TAKE UP.

IF SUCH INDUSTRIES WERE UNDERTAKEN IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY, THE VARIOUS HANDICRAFT PRODUCED BY THEM COULD BE POPULARISED NOT ONLY LOCALLY BUT ALSO OVERSEAS.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK NAJIB TUN RAZAK. -- BERNAMA

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