

U E483 AAE

MAHATHIR

BM

85 (P)
BANDAR PUSAT JENGA, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT PEOPLE WHO SPREAD PROPAGANDA SAYING THAT FELDA LAND SCHEMES MADE SLAVES OUT OF SETTLERS, LIKE WHAT WHITE PLANTATION MASTERS DID TO THE BLACKS AT ONE TIME.

HE SAID THAT IF THIS WAS TRUE, THERE WAS NO REASON WHY MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE SO EAGER TO JOIN THESE SCHEMES, AND IN FACT 9,000 FAMILIES WERE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR EMPLACEMENT IN FELDA LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING WHEN PERFORMING THE FOUNDATION-LAYING CEREMONY OF THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ITM) BRANCH CAMPUS HERE. ABOUT 10,000 SETTLERS CAME FOR THE CEREMONY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROVEN THE SCHEMES HAD HELPED RAISE THE LIVING STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE, THESE QUARTERS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH, JUST AS THEY REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD BROUGHT BY GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

END AND

THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IN HAVING FELDA LAND SCHEMES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WAS TO HELP RAISE THE STATUS OF THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY. -- MORE
1514MST 22 03 85

U E490 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 BANDAR PUSAT JENGA

THE PREPARATION OF THE SITE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE INITIAL BUILDING OF THE CAMPUS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE THREE YEARS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAS ALLOCATED \$15 MILLION FOR THE CAMPUS WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 2,000 STUDENTS.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WERE WELCOMED BY PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED NAJIB TUN RAZAK AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS ON ARRIVAL AT THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIR FORCE (RMAF) BASE IN KUANTAN TO BEGIN A TWO-DAY VISIT TO PAHANG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE REGRETTED THAT THOSE GROUPS WHICH SPREAD THE PROPAGANDA DID NOT AT ALL CARE FOR EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE STATUS OF MALAYS IN THE EYES OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES AND THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CEASE TO PLAN AND STRIVE TO BRING PROGRESS TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO UPGRADE THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY WITHOUT PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THESE GROUPS PREFERRED TO DIVIDE THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE MALAYS, BY LABELLING MUSLIMS THEMSELVES AS +KAFIR+ (INFIDELS). -- MORE
1545MST 22 03 85

U E491 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 BANDAR PUSAT JENGA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DREW ATTENTION TO THE ESCALATING WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND ASKED WHETHER THE THOUSANDS OF MUSLIMS GETTING KILLED IN THE CONFLICT DIED AS MARTYRS.

+IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT MUSLIMS DIE AS MARTYRS. THOSE WHO GET KILLED IN THE WAR BETWEEN MUSLIMS JUST SIMPLY DIE,+ HE SAID.

THEREFORE, THE ATTITUDE OF THE +PROPAGANDA+ GROUPS WHICH WERE PREPARED TO DIE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT SHOWED THAT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND ISLAM, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THE SETTLERS WOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING NOW WAS BETTER AND WOULD MAINTAIN HARMONY AMONG THEMSELVES AND SUPPORT GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.
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1547MST 22 03 85

U E492 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 BANDAR PUSAT JENGA

REFERRING TO THE ITM PAHANG BRANCH CAMPUS HERE, HE ADVISED THE SETTLERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

DATUK HAJI MOHAMED NAJIB, IN HIS SPEECH, PLEDGED THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PAHANG FOR GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THIS EVENING, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL LAUNCH A PLANNED KAMPUNG PROGRAMME AND A HANDICRAFT WORKSHOP IN KAMPUNG PASIR DURIAN IN JERANTUT. -- BERNAMA
1552MST 22 03 85