

D484

B E649 DEE
MAHATHIR-HANDICAPPED
BM

KELANG, DEC 3 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY SOCIETY SHOULD CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE AND VIEW OF THE HANDICAPPED AND ACCEPT THEIR ABILITIES AS EQUAL TO THOSE OF EVERYONE ELSE.

HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS SOCIETY PERISTED IN REMINDING THE HANDICAPPED THEY HAD A BLEAK FUTURE, THE HANDICAPPED ON THEIR PART WOULD FEEL THEY WERE NOT USEFUL DESPITE THE SKILLS THEY MIGHT HAVE.

SPEAKING AT A TEA PARTY ORGANISED BY THE WELFARE SERVICES MINISTRY HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID NON-HANDICAPPED PERSONS SHOULD REALISE THEY TOO HAD FLAWS.

THESE FLAWS COULD BE LACK OF INTELLIGENCE, GOOD LOOKS, MANNERS AND DEDICATION OR CRIMINAL TENDENCIES OR LAZINESS.

HE BELIEVED THAT IF EVERYONE WERE AWARE OF THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES, THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND BETTER THE PLIGHT OF THE HANDICAPPED AND BE MORE SYMPATHETIC AND CONSIDERATE TO THIS UNFORTUNATE GROUP. -- MORE

2041MST 03 12 85

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B E652 DEE
MAHATHIR-HANDICAPPED 2 KELANG

THE TEA PARTY WAS HELD AT BENGKEL DAYA, A WORKSHOP FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SONG AND DANCE PRESENTATION BY THE HANDICAPPED IN HONOUR OF HIS VISIT TO THE WORKSHOP SHOWED THEY HAD THE SAME ABILITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE.

WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER DATUK HAJI ABU HASSAN OMAR SAID THE WELFARE WEEK HELD RECENTLY HAD ATTAINED ITS OBJECTIVE OF UPGRADING THE IMAGE OF SOCIAL WORK BY MINISTRY STAFF AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

HE SAID ALL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WERE FULLY FINANCED BY DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THIS PROVED SOCIETY IN THIS COUNTRY HAD THE WILLINGNESS AND MEANS TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN LOOKING AFTER THE WELFARE OF THE HANDICAPPED.

DATUK ABU HASSAN SAID 305 PEOPLE HAD REGISTERED AS VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORKERS WHILE 1,040 HANDICAPPED PERSONS WERE REGISTERED BY END LAST MONTH.

THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI ALI AND DATUK HAJI ABU HASSAN TOURED THE WORKSHOP AND WITNESSED THE ACTIVITIES THERE SUCH AS MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

HANDICAPPED PERSONS WHO TOOK PART IN THE WELFARE WEEK CONCERT AT THE RTM AUDITORIUM RECENTLY PUT ON THE SHOW FOR THE VISITORS. -- BERNAMA

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