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MAHATHIR-POLICE  
BM

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 11PM TODAY) 8L  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE COUNTRY'S POLICE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENFORCING LAW AND ORDER IMPARTIALLY WITHOUT RELIGIOUS, RACIAL OR POLITICAL BIAS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE ROLE OF THE POLICE WAS A CHALLENGING AND DIFFICULT ONE, HE SAID WHEN CLOSING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL POLICE QURAN READING COMPETITION HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID THAT IN ENFORCING THE LAW AND IN CRIME PREVENTION DUTIES, THE POLICE WERE THE TARGET OF CRIMINALS AND OTHER LAW BREAKERS.

+SUCH LAWBREAKERS INCLUDED RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS WHO HAVE STRAYED FAR FROM THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND WHO ARE PREPARED TO MURDER POLICE PERSONNEL WHO ARE ONLY CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE POLICE HAD SCORED MAJOR SUCCESSES AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS BUT THESE WENT UNPROCLAIMED SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDISE CONTINUING OPERATIONS AGAINST THE TERRORISTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE  
1809MST 17 05 86

D481

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MAHATHIR-POLICE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THERE WERE GROUPS WHICH CRITICISED THE POLICE WHEN ISSUES CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTION, THE LAW OR THE NATION'S SECURITY AROSE BECAUSE OF A FAILURE ON THEIR PART TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE POLICE, HE SAID.

+I FEEL PROUD AND THANKFUL THAT POLICE PERSONNEL ARE NOT EASILY AFFECTED OR BECOME DOWNHEARTED BY SUCH CRITICISM BUT ON THE OTHER HAND HAVE SHOWN PATIENCE AND BRAVERY IN FACING THEM,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO SHOULDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WILL STRIVE TO FURTHER RAISE THEIR STANDARD OF DISCIPLINE, EFFICIENCY AND MORALE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE DISCIPLINED AND HOLD FIRMLY TO RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS SO AS TO EASE THE BURDEN OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY IN SAFEGUARDING THE NATION.

+TOWARDS THIS END THE GOVERNMENT HAS STRESSED ON THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENCOURAGED THE READING OF THE HOLY QURAN BY HOLDING COMPETITIONS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
1823MST 17 05 86

D488

U E376 DEE  
MAHATHIR-POLICE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+THE WELLBEING OF MALAYSIANS WILL BE MORE ASSURED AND THEY WILL ALSO EARN THE RESPECT OF OTHERS IF THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE AND THERE ARE NO POLICE CHECKPOINTS ALL OVER THE PLACE,+ HE SAID.

THE THEME OF THE POLICE QURAN READING COMPETITION THIS YEAR IS +PROFESSIONALISM - THE BASIS OF POLICE SERVICE+, WHICH WAS THE SAME FOR THE POLICE DAY CELEBRATIONS. -- BERNAMA  
1835MST 17 05 86