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MAHATHIR-FERRY

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KOTA KINABALU, JULY 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FARES FOR THE FERI MALAYSIA SERVICE BETWEEN Kuantan-Kuching-Kota Kinabalu CANNOT BE REDUCED ANY FURTHER BECAUSE OF THE HIGH OPERATION COSTS.

HE SAID DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISING \$5 MILLION A YEAR TO OPERATE THE SERVICE, HE WAS SURE IT WOULD NOT MAKE ANY PROFIT.

THE FERRY SERVICE WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE FARES CHARGED TO BE FAIR, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT FARE WAS CONSIDERED FAIR TO THE PASSENGERS IN VIEW OF THE OPERATING COSTS BUT A 30 PERCENT DISCOUNT WAS BEING GIVEN UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR TO GAUGE THE PUBLIC RESPONSE. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-FERRY 2 KOTA KINABALU

ON IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS CHECKS AT THE THREE PORTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENT DONE AWAY WITH BUT THE DECISION WAS UP TO THE SABAH GOVERNMENT.

+WHAT THEY CAN DO NOW IS TO EXPEDITE THE FORMALITY SO AS TO AVOID INCONVENIENCES TO PASSENGERS,+ HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD USE THE FACILITIES AT THE FERRY WHARF HERE PROPERLY AND THAT MORE TOURISTS WOULD COME TO SABAH BY THE FERRY. -- BERNAMA
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