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 KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 25 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW THE POLICY OF PROVIDING SUBSIDIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL AID TO INDIVIDUALS TO ERADICATE THE DOLE MENTALITY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS THE AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A MALAYSIAN SOCIETY THAT WAS SELF-RELIANT AND NOT ONE WHICH ALWAYS RELIED ON THE GOVERNMENT OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

OPENING THE NATIONAL SEMINAR OF WELFARE SERVICES AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE, HE SAID ANY ASSISTANCE GIVEN SHOULD BE ONLY TO HELP PEOPLE BEGIN PRODUCTIVE EFFORTS.

+WITH THIS IN MIND, THE PROVISION OF SUBSIDIES WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE DO NOT DEVELOP THE HABIT OF RELYING ON SUCH ASSISTANCE.

+THE SAME WILL BE APPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON OTHER SECTORS, WHERE IT WILL BE ENSURED THAT ASSISTANCE GIVEN WILL NOT BE TO THE EXTENT WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP OF PEOPLE BECOME WEAK OR DEPEND TOO MUCH ON GOVERNMENT AID,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.. -- MORE
 1302MST 25 08 86

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ON WELFARE PROGRAMMES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WOULD ENABLE THOSE RECEIVING THEM TO CONTINUE LEADING THEIR LIVES BY BEING SELF-RELIANT OR WITH VERY MINIMAL ASSISTANCE.

HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO ALWAYS RELIED ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE MIGHT +LOOK FRESH+ FOR A WHILE BUT THEIR SPIRIT WOULD BE WEAK AND THEY WOULD BECOME WITHERED IN THE LONG-TERM.

THERE WAS NO REASON WHY GROUPS WHICH ALL THIS WHILE RECEIVED WELFARE ASSISTANCE COULD NOT WORK AT ALL BECAUSE +THOSE WHO HAVE THE DETERMINATION SURELY CAN HELP THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT WELFARE ORGANISATIONS SHOULD PLAY A ROLE BY HELPING TO TRAIN AND REHABILITATE THE LESS FORTUNATE SO THAT THEY WERE NOT A BURDEN TO ANYONE.

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT AS THEY WERE EASTERN PEOPLE THEY SHOULD CONTINUE VALUING THE EXTENDED FAMILY SYSTEM AND NOT DISREGARD HELPING FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE. -- MORE
 1356MST 25 08 86

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE FAMILY COULD NOT JUST WASH ITS HANDS OFF THE MATTER AND DEPENDED SOLELY ON THE GOVERNMENT OR WELFARE INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS COULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, THEY COULD NOT HOWEVER GIVE THE LOVE WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED OUT OF FAMILY TIES, HE ADDED.

+HENCE, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET OUR EASTERN CULTURE AND IGNORE HELPING AND LOOKING AFTER OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS TO HAVE A POOL OF WORKERS WHO WERE SKILLED SO THAT WELFARE WORK COULD BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CONGRATULATED AND THANKED WELFARE WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHO WERE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THEIR TIME, ENERGY AND EXPERTISE IN THE INTEREST OF THE LESS FORTUNATE. --
 BERNAMA

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