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MAHATHIR-SONG  
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 8 (BERNAMA) -- THE TUNE OF THE SONG +TERANG BULAN+, WHICH WAS LATER USED FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, +NEGARA KU,+ WAS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE IN THE SEYCHELLES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN CENTURIES AGO, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT A LOCAL HISTORIAN HAD WRITTEN TO THE GOVERNOR OF SEYCHELLES ON THE ORIGIN OF THE TUNE AND WHEN THE SONG WAS BROADCAST ON THE ISLAND BY THE GOVERNOR, MANY RESIDENTS THERE NOTED THAT IT WAS SIMILAR TO +ROSALIE,+ AN OLD SONG OF THE ISLANDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER STOPPED OVER AT SEYCHELLES ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT SUMMIT IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION SUCCEEDED IN SECURING FROM THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIVES DOCUMENTS ON SULTAN ABDULLAH OF PERAK WHO WAS EXILED THERE BY THE BRITISH IN THE 18TH CENTURY IN CONNECTION WITH THE KILLING OF BRITISH RESIDENT J.W.W BIRCH. -- MORE

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HE SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF THE SULTAN CONTINUED TO STAY ON THE ISLANDS. HOWEVER, THEIR DESCENDENTS COULD NOT BE TRACED BECAUSE THEY HAD INTERMARRIED WITH THE LOCALS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE BRITISH HAD BROUGHT SULTAN ABDULLAH TO LONDON AND HAD ASKED HIM WHAT WAS THE STATE ANTHEM OF PERAK. THE SULTAN WAS SAID TO HAVE NAMED +ROSALIE.+

THE SONG BECAME THE STATE ANTHEM OF PERAK AND LATER THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. -- BERNAMA

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