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PARLIAMENT-NEP
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY A STRATEGY, PROGRAMME AND NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES WOULD BE FORMULATED TO ENSURE THE FURTHER SUCCESS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP).

HE SAID THE MOVE WAS AIMED AT CONTINUING THE EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND OVERCOME ANY IMBALANCES THAT EXISTED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP WAS NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE EFFORT TO REALISE ITS OBJECTIVES SO THAT IMBALANCES AMONG THE VARIOUS RACES IN THE COUNTRY COULD BE REDUCED.

THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVE, WOULD SEEK THEIR VIEWS BEFORE MAKING ANY EXTENSION OF THE NEP PERIOD, HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-BUKIT BINTANG) WHO WANTED TO KNOW HOW FAR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP HAD ACHIEVED THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTRY.

ENCIK LEE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO EXTEND THE NEP AND WHETHER IT WOULD SEEK THE PEOPLE'S VIEWS FIRST. -- MORE
1710MST 08 10 86

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PARLIAMENT-NEP 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE EFFORTS MUST BE CONTINUED AFTER 1990 TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY.

HE SAID THE NEP HAD SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING THE +ECONOMIC+ DIFFERENCES AMONG THE RACES AND THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY TOWARDS ATTAINING THE OBJECTIVE OF NATIONAL UNITY.

SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEP, THE POVERTY RATE AMONG ALL RACES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM 49 PERCENT IN 1970 TO 18 PERCENT IN 1984.

THE POVERTY LEVEL IN THE RURAL AREAS HAD ALSO DROPPED FROM 59 PERCENT IN 1970 TO 25 PERCENT IN 1984 WHILE THAT IN THE URBAN AREAS DROPPED FROM 21 TO EIGHT PERCENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE NEP HAD SUCCEEDED IN NARROWING THE EDUCATION GAP AMONG THE RACES. -- MORE
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IN THE HIGH INCOME PROFESSIONS SUCH AS ARCHITECTURE, ACCOUNTANCY AND ENGINEERING, THE BUMIPUTERAS' OVERALL PARTICIPATION WAS 21 PERCENT, CHINESE 62 PERCENT AND INDIANS 14 PERCENT WHILE IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR, BUMIPUTERAS HAD ACHIEVED 18 PERCENT PARTICIPATION COMPARED WITH 57 PERCENT BY THE NON-BUMIPUTERAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT A DEGREE OF UNITY HAD BEEN FORGED IN THE COUNTRY TODAY AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVERAL POLICIES INCLUDING THE NEP.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK P.PATTO, (DAP-IPOH), HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NEP WOULD ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT SUCCESS BECAUSE THE POLICY HAD NOT ENDED YET.

HE SAID IT ALSO COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NEP HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC RECESSION BECAUSE THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDED ON THE STATE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. -- BERNAMA

1730MST 08 10 86