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MAHATHIR-CUEPACS
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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO BORROW FROM OVERSEAS TO PAY SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS BECAUSE THIS WILL EVENTUALLY MAKE MALAYSIA A PAUPER.

HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S VARIOUS MEASURES TO REDUCE ITS SPENDING, ITS REVENUE WAS STILL DECLINING AND +WILL REACH A STAGE WHEN WE WILL HAVE TO BORROW TO PAY SALARIES.+

+ANYONE WILL KNOW THAT IF WE BORROW FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, WE WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A PAUPER AND A SLAVE TO THOSE WHO LEND US MONEY,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 17TH CUEPACS TRIENNIAL CONVENTION HERE.

+AS A NATION, OUR FREEDOM WILL BE JEOPARDISED AND WE WILL BE FORCED TO FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF BANKS AND RICH NATIONS ON HOW TO MANAGE OUR ECONOMY.

+IF WE CANNOT BORROW, WE WILL HAVE TO REDUCE OUR EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING OPERATING EXPENDITURE, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ENFORCING PAY CUTS OR RETRENCHING SOME CIVIL SERVANTS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1419MST 20 10 86

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+THIS IS THE PROBLEM WE FACE FOR AS LONG AS WE CANNOT EXPORT OUR PRODUCTS AT PRICES THAT WILL BRING US PROFITS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AS PRICES OF COMMODITIES WERE NOT LIKELY TO RECOVER IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE COUNTRY MUST MAKE EFFORTS, FIRST, TO REDUCE EXPENDITURE AND SECONDLY, TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY.

SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE FROM NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

ANY ACTION BY ANY QUARTER THAT WOULD IMPEDE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC REHABILITATION WOULD ONLY DELAY THE NATION'S RECOVERY FROM THE CURRENT ADVERSE FINANCIAL SITUATION, HE SAID.

+THE PROBLEM WE ARE FACING IS OUR COMMON PROBLEM, NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S OR EMPLOYERS' PROBLEM OR THAT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR THE EMPLOYEES. AS SUCH, WE MUST COOPERATE.+ -- MORE
1443MST 20 10 86

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ON CUEPACS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS PROUD IT HAD RETURNED TO ITS ROLE OF BEING A WORKERS' UNION AND WAS NO LONGER LIKE A POLITICAL BODY OR A TOOL TO PROMOTE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.

HE SAID THAT IN UNIONS USED FOR ACHIEVING POLITICAL AIMS, THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS WOULD BE SET ASIDE, AND IF POLITICAL PARTIES USING UNIONS WERE TO COME INTO POWER, THE UNION AND THE WORKERS WOULD ONLY SUFFER.

HE SAID THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW CUEPACS LEADERSHIP WAS MORE REALISTIC AS REFLECTED DURING THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THIS WAS BECAUSE THE UNION +WAS ABLE TO FREE ITSELF OF PEOPLE WHO HAD OTHER AIMS.+

+THERE ARE NO LONGER ACTIONS SUCH AS AGREEING INSIDE AND NOT AGREEING OUTSIDE WHICH HAD RESULTED IN A CONFRONTATIONAL STANCE IN PUBLIC INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REJECTED THE NOTION THAT UNION LEADERS WERE NOT LEADERS IF THEY WERE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE EMPLOYER.

THIS ATTITUDE OF ALWAYS ADOPTING A HOSTILE STANCE FREQUENTLY LED TO THE FAILURE OF UNION STRUGGLES, HE SAID. -- MORE
1450MST 20 10 86

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REJECTED THE CALL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE FIVE NATIONAL JOINT COUNCILS INTO A SINGLE UMBRELLA BODY FOR THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SERVICE WITH NEGOTIATING RIGHTS LIKE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC SECTOR COULD NOT BE EQUATED WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT LIKE A COMPANY LOOKING FOR PROFITS FOR ITS OWNERS.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT IS OBSTRUCTED FROM CARRYING OUT ITS ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATION, THOSE WHO WILL SUFFER AND FACE LOSSES ARE THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION AND THOSE WHO OBSTRUCT WILL ALSO LOSE WHEN THE NATION SUFFERS LOSSES, AT LEAST IN THE LONG RUN.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT IF BARGAINING WAS PERMITTED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED TO +FACE+ UNIONS AND THERE WOULD BE TENSION.

+A GOVERNMENT THAT IS UNDER CONSTANT THREAT OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION OR ATTACK WILL NO LONGER BE AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT, AND WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT, ALL KINDS OF THINGS SUCH AS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE, WOULD EMERGE.+ -- BERNAMA
1511MST 20 10 86