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 MAHATHIR-SALARY
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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TODAY TOLD CUEPACS MEMBERS THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION DOES NOT ALLOW THE SEEKING OF POPULARITY THROUGH PROMISES THAT ARE NOT LIKELY TO MATERIALISE.

COMMENTING ON THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO BE TIED TO PROMISES IT MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FULFIL.

+THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND STATE OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE DO NOT PERMIT ME TO SEEK POPULARITY BY APPEARING TO PROMISE SOMETHING THAT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE GIVEN,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 17TH CUEPACS TRIENNIAL CONVENTION HERE.

+IF WE WISH TO BRING ABOUT OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, WE SHOULD POOL OUR RESOURCES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAMMES.

+IF WE DELUDE OURSELVES AND ACT AND THINK AS IF THE SITUATION WAS LIKE BEFORE, THE REAL VICTIMS WILL BE US,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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COMMENTING FURTHER ON THE CUEPACS CLAIMS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM TO BREAK ITS PROMISES TO CUEPACS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED IN 1982 TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING HOUSING ALLOWANCE TO EMPLOYEES BELOW SUPERSCALE G WHEN THE ECONOMY IMPROVED, DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BROKEN ITS PROMISE.

+THE GOVERNMENT ONLY PROMISED TO STUDY IT, AND NEVER SAID IT WOULD APPROVE IT. EVEN THEN, THIS UNDERTAKING WAS SUBJECT TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND SINCE 1982, THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN ON THE DECLINE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD STUDY ALL THE NEW CLAIMS FORWARDED BY CUEPACS, AND IN A LIGHTER VEIN, ADDED: +NOW DON'T ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF BREAKING ITS PROMISE IF IT REJECTS THE CLAIMS AFTER STUDYING THEM.+

+MOREOVER, I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO DECIDES EVEN THOUGH I AM THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE MY POWERS ARE LIMITED. ALL THE REQUESTS HAVE GO THROUGH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT MAKES A DECISION ON THEM,+ HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO BE TIED TO VARIOUS PROMISES IN THE EVENT IT WAS UNABLE TO FULFILL THEM. --
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