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MELAKA, NOV 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID IT IS THE ATTITUDE AND THE +THINKING CAPACITY+ OF THE PEOPLE THAT DETERMINE THE PROGRESS OF A NATION AND NOT ITS NATURAL RESOURCES.

THERE WERE SOME COUNTRIES WHICH HAD MORE NATURAL RESOURCES THAN DEVELOPED NATIONS BUT THEY HAD NOT JOINED THE RANKS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; HE SAID AT A DINNER HERE LAST NIGHT IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO THE STATE.

HE SAID THAT IF THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE WAS BASED ON NOBLE VALUES LIKE TRUSTWORTHINESS, DILIGENCE AND DISCIPLINE AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES, THE COUNTRY WOULD SUCCEED AND PROGRESS.

+IF WE HAVE SUCH NOBLE VALUES, WE CAN BE CONFIDENT OF SUCCEEDING. WE CAN DO WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIANS HAD THE SAME QUALITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE, ABLE TO ACQUIRE VARIOUS FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE AND TO MAKE USE OF THEM. -- MORE
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+IF WE MAKE AN ANALYSIS AND FIND THAT IT IS SUCH VALUES AND ATTITUDE THAT DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF A NATION, AS PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO THINK; WE SHOULD REVIEW OUR STAND+, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH FEELINGS OF EMOTION WERE NECESSARY IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE TO USE THEIR THINKING FACULTY TO FORMULATE STRATEGIES WHICH WOULD ENSURE SUCCESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AIM OF HIS NATION-WIDE VISIT WAS TO INSTIL SUCH THINKING AMONG THE PEOPLE.

+SUCH THINKING WILL ENABLE US TO BE A STRONG NATION AS WE WILL BE PREPARED TO FACE ALL CHALLENGES; SET ASIDE FEELINGS OF EMOTION THAT DIVIDE US AND GIVE PRIORITY TO ACTIVITIES THAT CAN DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY+, HE SAID.

HE ADDED IF ON THE OTHER HAND THE PEOPLE CHOSE NOT TO PRACTISE NOBLE VALUES, THEY WOULD BECOME BACKWARD AND EXPLOITED AND WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS TO LIVE. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 3 MELAKA

+THERE IS NO NATION IN THE WORLD WHICH LIKES TO BE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY OTHERS. ALL OF US HAVE INTEGRITY+, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT BY MERELY SAYING +WE ARE NOT AN INFERIOR PEOPLE+ OTHERS WOULD RESPECT MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND THE COUNTRY UNABLE TO MANUFACTURE GOODS PRODUCED BY DEVELOPED NATIONS, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE NOTION BY OTHERS THAT MALAYSIANS WERE INFERIOR.

HE STRESSED THAT THE DECISION WHETHER THE PEOPLE WANTED TO BE A PEOPLE OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

EARLIER, MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK URGED THE PEOPLE TO FOSTER GREATER UNITY AND TO PRACTISE NOBLE VALUES TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS. -- MORE
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HE ALSO SAID THE +CONFUSION+ AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON CURRENT ISSUES SHOULD BE STOPPED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A NEW ERA FOR THE COUNTRY.

POLITICIANS, HE SAID, SHOULD REJECT ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD WEAKEN THE UNITY AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE.

PRESENT WERE THE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ABU ZAHAR ISNIN AND OTHER STATE LEADERS. -- BERNAMA
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