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MAHATHIR-POLICE
BM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 11PM TODAY, NOV 23.

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 23 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT ASKED THE MASS MEDIA NOT TO BLAME THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE FOR THE ACTIONS OF AN UNETHICAL AND DISOBEDIENT FEW.

+THE MASS MEDIA SHOULD GIVE AN ACCURATE, TRUE AND FAIR PICTURE OF THE SITUATION AS WELL AS MAKE CRITICAL BUT CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSES OF THE ISSUES AT HAND,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THAT CONSIDERING POLICE WORK WAS LARGELY ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW, ACTIONS OF POLICE PERSONNEL WERE OPEN TO COMMENTARY AND CRITICISM BY THE MASS MEDIA.

THE MASS MEDIA MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANNEL CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTIONS ON PROPER AND PRACTICAL WAYS OF RESOLVING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER, SAID AT A POLICE-MASS MEDIA GATHERING AND DINNER HERE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE POLICE FORCE WELCOMED ANY CRITICISM IN ITS EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF ITS SERVICE. -- MORE
1734MST 23 11 86

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MAHATHIR-POLICE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT WAS TO FOSTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MASS MEDIA AND THE POLICE FORCE TO HELP CREATE A PEACEFUL AND RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY.

TOWARDS THIS END, THE ROLE OF THE POLICE WAS TO UPHOLD THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION WHILE THAT OF THE MASS MEDIA WAS TO FOSTER A HEALTHY, HARMONIOUS AND DYNAMIC INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AMONG ITS READERS AND AUDIENCE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID A RESPONSIBLE AND PATRIOTIC MASS MEDIA SHOULD CONSIDER PROMOTION OF THESE POSITIVE VALUES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CALLED FOR CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MASS MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

HE REMINDED THE MASS MEDIA IT WAS EASY TO SIMPLY CRITICISE BUT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS REQUIRED A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, HARD WORK AND A SHARP MIND. -- MORE
1822MST 23 11 86

B E944 AAE
MAHATHIR-POLICE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE MASS MEDIA'S PUBLICATION OR REPORT OF NEWS ACCORDING TO ITS OWN PERSPECTIVE AND VIEWPOINT HAD EITHER OF TWO EFFECTS -- FACILITATE POLICE WORK OR BRING ABOUT ITS FAILURE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ELABORATING ON THE MASS MEDIA'S CAPACITY TO DO BOTH GOOD AND BAD, HE SAID IT HAD THE POTENTIAL OF ENHANCING THE CRIMINAL ENVIRONMENT AND CREATING PUBLIC ANXIETY OVER NATIONAL WELLBEING AS WELL OF EXPOSING CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND PROTECTING THE PEOPLE FROM THE CORRUPTED.

IN VIEW OF ITS INFLUENCE, THE MASS MEDIA SHOULD HELP INSTIL A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE TO ENSURE ATTAINMENT OF NATION-BUILDING GOALS. -- BERNAMA
1849MST 23 11 86