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MAHATHIR-PROBLEMS
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MALAYSIA WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS AND SHOULD NOT CONSIDER THEM AS A BURDEN,+ HE SAID.

+NO ONE CAN OVERCOME THE PROBLEM WITHOUT THE CONTRIBUTION FROM EVERY CITIZEN IN THIS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID DURING A DIALOGUE WITH MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB HERE.

HE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE MAY 13 INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN 1969, THERE WERE REPORTS THAT DEMOCRACY WAS DEAD IN MALAYSIA.

HOWEVER MALAYSIA SINCE THEN CONTINUED TO PROGRESS AND THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT WAS MORE RAPID AFTER 1969, HE SAID. -- MORE

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THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER EVERY PROBLEM FACING THE NATION AS A FORM OF PRESSURE BUT MUST STRIVE JOINTLY TO FIND A SOLUTION.

WITH THE FALL IN COMMODITY PRICES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING, HE SAID.

WITH THE FALL IN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM, THE GOVERNMENT HAD REDUCED THE PRICE OF DIESEL AND ELECTRICITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF FACTORIES UNABLE TO COPE BECAUSE OF RISING PRODUCTION COSTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA

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