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UMNO-ECONOMY
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 23 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY AGREED TO URGE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS TO SPEED UP MATTERS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME TO CONSTRUCT 80,000 LOW-COST HOUSES PER YEAR.

UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE MOVE WAS PART OF EFFORTS TO HELP REDUCE THE BURDEN CAUSED BY THE RECESSION.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THIS AFTER A SIX-HOUR MEETING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEMS FACED BY PETTY TRADERS AND HAWKERS.

HE SAID THE MEETING FELT THAT PARTICIPATION IN SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD HELP OVERCOME THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. -- MORE
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YESTERDAY, THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE A \$30 MILLION ALLOCATION TO STATE GOVERNMENTS TO HELP PETTY TRADERS AND HAWKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD POSTPONED THE CELEBRATIONS OF UMNO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON MAY 11.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE DATE FELL IN THE FASTING MONTH OF RAMADAN, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 11, ALL UMNO DIVISIONS WOULD HOLD TAHLIL SESSIONS TO MARK THE OCCASION, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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