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B E065 AAE
MAHATHIR - APARTHEID

86 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 22 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA TODAY REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE JUST AND LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND APARTHEID.

IN A MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT IT ALSO MARKED THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE OF SHARPEVILLE AND PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MALAYSIA TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO HELP IN EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE INTOLERABLE AND INHUMAN SYSTEM OF APARTHEID.

MALAYSIA SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA AS MANIFESTED IN THE MANY RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TRAGIC EVENT WHICH OCCURRED 26 YEARS AGO IN SHARPEVILLE SHOWED TO THE WORLD THAT THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA WAS DETERMINED TO PERPETUATE AND ENTRENCH ITS RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEM.

HISTORY HAD PROVED THAT NO AMOUNT OF LEGISLATION OR BRUTE FORCE CAN SUPPRESS THE DESIRE FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY, HE SAID.-- MORE
2014MST 22 03 86

D275

B E068 AAE

MAHATHIR - APARTHEID 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE CONTINUING UNREST AND INSTABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA STEMMED FROM THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BRUTALLY IMPOSED BY THE PRETORIA REGIME.

+THOUSANDS OF OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE TO INSTITUTE RACIAL EQUALITY AND JUSTICE IN THEIR HOMELAND.+

+AS LONG AS THE PRETORIA REGIME CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THIS EVIL SYSTEM, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN SOUTH AFRICA+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CHARGED THAT THE PRETORIA REGIME HAD ON MANY OCCASIONS PROMISED +REFORMS+ WHICH, HE SAID, WERE MERELY EMPTY WORDS AIMED AT CONFUSING COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE REGIME.

FOR CHANGES TO OCCUR, IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT MORE PRESSURE BE BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON THAT REGIME, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE CONCERTED ACTION BY ADHERING TO THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRETORIA REGIME PUT A STOP TO THE INJUSTICE INFLICTED ON THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA
2023MST 22 03 86