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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR (POLARISATION)

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS POLICIES TO FORGE GREATER UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE DEBATE ON THE ROYAL ADDRESS, HE SAID IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR THE OBJECTIVES OF SUCH POLICIES TO BE REALISED IN A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT MALAYSIANS OF ALL DESCENT HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE VARIOUS POLICIES SUCH AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS NOT FAIR THEREFORE TO DWELL TOO MUCH ON QUESTIONING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH POLICIES AS THOUGH THE POLICIES ONLY HAD BAD EFFECTS AND NO GOOD POINTS.+

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY DRIVE, HE SAID BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE CONSTANTLY REVIEWING THE PRIORITY OF PROJECTS PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAD YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED. -- MORE  
2208MST 19 03 86

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR (POLARISATION) 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+IN THIS RESPECT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS FROM THE ASPECT OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE AND THOSE REQUIRING A LOT OF MONEY HAVE BEEN POSTPONED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT EFFORTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO PREVENT WASTAGE OF FUNDS AND TO CUT DOWN ON COSTS OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD THE HOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY AT PRESENT TO HAVE A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GATHERING DATA ON THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND ALSO FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SUCH DATA WAS BEING USED FOR REASONS OF COMPARISON.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING AUSTERITY MEASURES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BY FREEZING UNIMPORTANT POSTS AND PRIVATISING SUITABLE AGENCIES AND PROJECTS, HE SAID. -- MORE  
2209MST 19 03 86

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+AT THE SAME TIME, STUDIES ARE BEING MADE TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

ON WORK TENDERED BY PETRONAS, HE SAID 45.8 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL CONTRACTS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO LOCAL COMPANIES LAST YEAR AND IN 1984.

EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE BIG PROJECTS SUCH AS FABRICATION WERE GIVEN TO FOREIGN CONTRACTORS, PETRONAS HAD IMPOSED CONDITIONS ON THE CONTRACTORS THAT THEY MUST USE LOCAL MATERIALS EXCEPT WHEN THE NECESSARY MATERIALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO STEP UP THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN HEAVY WORK TENDERED BY PETRONAS, HE SAID.

+IF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, PETRONAS IS PREPARED TO BREAK DOWN BIG CONTRACTS TO ENABLE LOCAL CONTRACTORS TO DO THE JOB,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON CORRUPTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS UNDER CONTROL. HE SAID THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY WAS DOUBLING ITS EFFORTS TO COUNTER IT.

+EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION IS NOT AN EASY TASK AS IT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.+

+THE PEOPLE MUST COME FORWARD WITH ADEQUATE PROOF AS CORRUPTION CASES ARE USUALLY DIFFICULT TO PROVE IN COURT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ON THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS), HE SAID IT WAS SET UP TO PROVIDE IDEAS AND A SECOND OPINION ON VITAL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE ECONOMY WERE ALSO ATTENDED TO BY ISIS AND THE RESULTS OF STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY IT WERE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE DEWAN WILL SIT AGAIN TOMORROW. -- BERNAMA  
2238MST 19 03 86