

B E637 DEE
 MAHATHIR-DEMONSTRATION
 BM

KAMPAR, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS OR BECOMING ANGRY AT THE GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS OVER THE RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM.

+NO DEMONSTRATION, NO MATTER HOW BIG, WILL BENEFIT ANYONE AS IT WILL NOT SOLVE THE ISSUE AT HAND,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WAS TO GIVE ATTENTION TO FINDING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT, OPPORTUNITIES OF WHICH WERE AMPLE, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP IN THIS EFFORT.

ADDRESSING A GOODWILL GATHERING OF 8,000 PEOPLE AT MAMBANG DIAWAN NEW VILLAGE NEAR HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EMPLOYERS WOULD NOT RETRENCH WORKERS IF THEIR ENTERPRISES WERE PERFORMING WELL.

HE ASKED THE PEOPLE TO BE RATIONAL IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE HE SAID THE ECONOMIC RECESSION WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S DOING BUT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS, INCLUDING LACK OF DEMAND FOR THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS AND DECLINING PRICES. -- MORE
 2005MST 14 03 86

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B E638 DEE
 MAHATHIR-DEMONSTRATION 2 KAMPAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAD BEEN RETRENCHED, COULD GO INTO COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, HANDICRAFT-MAKING OR AGRICULTURE.

HE SAID THESE EFFORTS WOULD HAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT AS IT WAS AWARE OF AND SYMPATHISED WITH THE PEOPLE'S PLIGHT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE AT LENGTH ON PROBLEMS IN NEW VILLAGES, AS WELL AS THE OBJECTIVES OF THEIR FORMATION AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER DISCRIMINATED AGAINST DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VILLAGES AS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND ALLOCATIONS MADE FOR THEM.

+I AGREE THAT SOME AREAS MAY HAVE BEEN LEFT A LITTLE BEHIND BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES,+ HE SAID.
 -- MORE
 2007MST 14 03 86

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B E644 DEE
 MAHATHIR-DEMONSTRATION 3 KAMPAR

HE URGED RESIDENTS OF NEW VILLAGES NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH INCITED THEM TO HATE THE GOVERNMENT MERELY BECAUSE A CERTAIN PROJECT HAD NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN THEIR AREA.

HE SAID THAT IF THEY FELL FOR SUCH A PLOY AND CHOSE AN OPPOSITION REPRESENTATIVE THEY THEMSELVES WOULD SUFFER AS THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT BE ABLE OR INTERESTED TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE PEOPLE HERE HAD BEEN SUPPORTING BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES SINCE THE 1982 ELECTION AND HOPED THIS SUPPORT WOULD CONTINUE.

HE ANNOUNCED THAT A POLYCLINIC WOULD BE BUILT IN MAMBANG DIAWAN NEW VILLAGE SOON UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESERVE THE HARMONY AND GOODWILL AMONG THEMSELVES. -- MORE
 2024MST 14 03 86

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B E645 DEE
MAHATHIR-DEMONSTRATION 4 KAMPAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB AND BN COMPONENT PARTY LEADERS, WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME WHEN HE ARRIVED HERE FROM BOTA KANAN WHERE HE HAD ADDRESSED A SIMILAR GATHERING.

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE BROKE OUT WHEN HE STEPPED ON STAGE AT THE NATIONAL-TYPE CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ADDRESS THE RESIDENTS, MOST OF WHOM ARE CHINESE. THERE WERE SHOUTS OF +MERDEKA+ AND +HIDUP MAHATHIR+.

MAMBANG DIAWAN NEW VILLAGE, DIVIDED INTO 1,622 LOTS, IS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST NEW VILLAGE. -- BERNAMA
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