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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT
BM

KOTA BAHARU, MARCH 27 (BERNAMA) 86

-- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT DESPITE THE REDUCED ALLOCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS PLANS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL DO ITS BEST TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE RURAL POOR, TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING STANDARD.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ABLE TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON THE SCALE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE THE COUNTRY FACED AN ECONOMIC RECESSION, THE PEOPLE WOULD STILL ENJOY THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT AS USUAL.

LAUNCHING THE DESA DARUL NAIM HOUSING PROJECT AT PASIR TUMBOH NEAR HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE PATIENT AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNTRY STILL FACED FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS DUE TO THE RECESSION.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE DISHEARTENED BY THE FALLING PRICES OF COMMODITIES LIKE RUBBER, PALM OIL AND OIL, BUT INSTEAD WORK HARDER TO MAKE THE COUNTRY MORE PROSPEROUS SO THAT THEY COULD HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE.

HE SAID THAT IN IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, THE GOVERNMENT WAS FAIR TO ALL QUARTERS AND ALWAYS GAVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO REMOTE AND BACKWARD AREAS. -- MORE
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IF IN THE PAST DEVELOPMENT WAS CONCENTRATED IN URBAN AREAS, THE GOVERNMENT NOW WAS SPREADING DEVELOPMENT TO ALL AREAS SO THAT ALL PEOPLE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE EFFORT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT DEPEND ON ONLY ONE PLACE FOR REVENUE TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT, FOR THIS WOULD MEAN THE BACKWARD AND REMOTE AREAS MIGHT NOT GET DEVELOPED.

HE CITED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) BRANCH CAMPUS IN KELANTAN AS ONE EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME TO DISTRIBUTE THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE AREAS AND PROVE IT WAS FAIR TO ALL.

ALTHOUGH THE COST WAS HIGH, THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL WILLING TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE TO ENJOY THE SAME BENEFITS AS THOSE IN OTHER PLACES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE PEOPLE NEARLY EVERY DAY, BUILDING FACILITIES LIKE SCHOOLS, CLINICS, ROADS AND WORKSHOPS, AND THIS SHOWED THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION GAVE PRIORITY TO THE INTERESTS AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HIT OUT AT A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH HE SAID LIKED TO SPREAD LIES, INCITE THE PEOPLE TO HATE ONE ANOTHER AND DISTORT ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, UNLIKE THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH CALLED FOR UNITY, TRUST, DISCIPLINE, HARD WORK AND GOOD VALUES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE AND DID NOT ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO MAKE PROBLEMS FOR THE COUNTRY.

+BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS A RESPONSIBLE ONE, IT URGES THE PEOPLE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER, INCLUDING INTERRACIAL COOPERATION.+

THIS CONTRASTED WITH THE STAND OF THE POLITICAL PARTY, WHICH HE SAID ACCUSED UMNO OF BEING KAFIR (INFIDEL) BECAUSE IT COOPERATED WITH THE NON-MALAYS BUT WHICH WAS NOW WOOING NON-MUSLIMS.

ABOUT 80,000 PEOPLE THROGGED THE EIGHT-HECTARE PROJECT AREA TO LISTEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE \$90 MILLION PROJECT BELONGS TO THE KELANTAN STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS MOVED BY THE WELCOME GIVEN HIM BY THE PEOPLE OF KELANTAN TODAY, DESCRIBING IT AS THE BIGGEST TURNOUT EVER OF HIS CURRENT SERIES OF VISITS TO STATES UNDER A NATION-WIDE TOUR. -- BERNAMA
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