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MAHATHIR-FOUNDATION R R R R

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KUCHING, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT MALAYSIANS WHO ARE PEACE-LOVING AND WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK HARD ARE ACTUALLY AN ASSET TO THE COUNTRY.

+WE MUST VALUE THIS ASSET SO AS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION TOWARDS MAKING MALAYSIA A DEVELOPED NATION IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER TO MARK THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SARAWAK NATIONAL PARTY (SNAP) AT THE BANQUET HALL OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY BUILDING IN PETRA JAYA NEAR HERE.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD AND DATIN PATINGGI HAJJAH LAILA AS WELL AS LEADERS OF SEVERAL BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ON A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SARAWAK SAID THAT SINCE INDEPENDENCE, MALAYSIA HAD DONE REMARKABLY WELL IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT.

+THE DAY WILL OCOME WHEN MALAYSIA WILL STAND ALONG SIDE SOME OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS IF WE ARE WILLING TO WORK HARD TOWARDS THAT FROM NOW ON,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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D035

U E155 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FOUNDATION 2 KUCHING

HE SAID NOT MANY NATIONS IN SUCH A SHORT HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE HAD ACHIEVED THAT MUCH AND AS SUCH MALAYSIANS SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THEIR NATION.

+WE NEED NOT GO ROUND BEATING OUR CHEST BUT WE MUST BE PROUD OF OUR NATION, WE MUST WORK HARD TOWARDS REALISING THE REAL POTENTIALS OF THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

EVEN FOR A COUNTRY BESTOWED WITH A LOT OF MINERAL WEALTH MUCH CANNOT BE ACHIEVED UNLESS ITS PEOPLE LIVE PEACEFULLY TOGETHER AND BE WILLING TO EXPLOIT SUCH WEALTH, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO RUN THE COUNTRY IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER.

HE SAID ONLY IN MALAYSIA ONE CAN ONE FIND SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES WHO MIGHT BE +ENEMIES+ WORKING TOGETHER WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY'S WELL-BEING. -- MORE  
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U E156 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FOUNDATION 3 KUCHING

HE CITED THE EXAMPLES OF SNAP AND THE SARAWAK UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY (SUPP) WHICH WERE BOTH ONCE IN THE OPPOSITION BUT WERE NOW MEMBERS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND WERE WORKING TOWARDS CONTRIBUTING TO MALAYSIA'S PROSPERITY.

+AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE IN THE CONCEPT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, I AM CONFIDENT WE (THE BN) WILL SURVIVE FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, HE WELCOMED THE PLEDGE MADE EARLIER BY SNAP PRESIDENT, DATUK AMAR JAMES WONG THAT SNAP WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE BARISAN NASIONAL. -- BERNAMA  
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