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MAHATHIR-LOGO

86. (Y)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAD DELEGATES ATTENDING THE OPENING OF THE PATA '86 CONFERENCE HERE TODAY IN STITCHES WITH HIS DROLL SWIPES AT THE TURTLE LOGO FOR THE CONFERENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS SPEECH, WAS MENTIONING THE SPECIAL EFFORTS PUT IN BY MALAYSIA TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE PATA LOGO DESIGN OF AN UPRIGHT LEATHERBACK TURTLE WEARING SUNGLASSES AND HAVING THE WORDS +PATA 86 MALAYSIA+ EMBLAZONED ACROSS ITS FRONT.

HE TOLD THE DELEGATES THE LEATHERBACK TURTLE COULD NORMALLY BE SEEN ONLY AT CERTAIN PARTS OF THE 600KM SANDY COASTLINE OF THE EAST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AT ABOUT 3 IN THE MORNING.

BUT NOW WITH THE TURTLE LOGO ALL OVER THE PLACE, THE DELEGATES NEED NOT HAVE TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO THE EAST COAST IN THE SMALL HOURS OF THE MORNING JUST TO SEE WHAT THE TURTLE LOOKED LIKE. -- MORE
1232MST 14 04 86

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MAHATHIR-LOGO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DELEGATES WOULD ALSO PROBABLY NOTICE THAT MALAYSIAN TURTLES WORE SUNGLASSES AND HE HAD A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK EXPLANATION FOR THIS.

THE GLASSES, HE SAID, WERE A GIFT TO THE NIGHT-LAYING TURTLES FROM THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TDC) TO TRICK THEM INTO THINKING DAY WAS NIGHT AND THEY LAY THEIR EGGS DURING THE DAYTIME FOR THE TOURISTS.

HE ALSO SAID MOST TOURISTS WHO CAME TO MALAYSIA WERE FROM FAR PLACES JUST LIKE THE TURTLES WHICH MADE LONG OCEAN JOURNEYS TO THE EAST COAST TO LAY.

+I HOPE YOU TOO WILL COME TO MALAYSIA TO LAY YOUR GOLDEN EGGS,+ HE ADDED, IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE TOURISM EARNINGS THEY GENERATE FOR THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA
1235MST 14 04 86