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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT
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LABUAN, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT HERE ALTHOUGH THE PACE IS NOT AS RAPID AS IN THE PAST.

DEVELOPMENT COULD NOT BE AS RAPID BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO REDUCE THE ALLOCATIONS IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC RECESSION; THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT

HE IS HERE ON THE LAST LEG OF A NATIONWIDE TOUR WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE RECESSION DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE AFFECTED BUSINESS IN LABUAN.

TRADE WITH THE PHILIPPINES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD EXPANDED WHILE THAT WITH BRUNEI COULD BE FURTHER UPGRADED; HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 2 LABUAN

ON TOURISM IN LABUAN, THE PRIME MINISTER IT WAS NOT VERY ENCOURAGING AT PRESENT DUE TO LACK OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ITSELF HAS NOT INCLUDED LABUAN IN ITS TOUR PROGRAMMES FOR THE VARIOUS STATES IN MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS COULD RESULT IN LABUAN BEING LEFT BEHIND A LITTLE IN TERMS OF BEING A TOURIST DESTINATION.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO LENGTHEN THE RUNWAY AT THE AIRPORT HERE TO ACCOMMODATE LARGER AIRCRAFT.

HE WAS CONFIDENT OF LABUAN'S POTENTIAL AS A TOURIST RESORT AND IN THIS CONNECTION URGED INVESTORS TO GIVE THEIR ATTENTION TO THE MATTER.

ON POLITICS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID HE FOUND THAT LABUAN RESIDENTS IN GENERAL SUPPORTED THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO SET UP AN UMNO, MCA AND PROBABLY MIC BRANCH IN LABUAN.

ASKED WHETHER THE SETTING UP OF AN UMNO BRANCH WOULD MEAN THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BERJAYA BRANCH ON THE ISLAND, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE MATTER HAD YET TO BE DISCUSSED WITH BERJAYA AND IT WAS UP TO THE VARIOUS QUARTERS CONCERNED AS BERJAYA WAS ALSO IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL. -- BERNAMA
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