

0905

B E992 AAE
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY

BANTING, APRIL 26⁸⁶ (BERNAMA) -- CEMENT WILL BE USED IN FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAYS AND KAMPUNG ROADS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID CEMENT WOULD BE USED MOSTLY FROM NOW ONWARDS IN SUCH CONSTRUCTION EXCEPT IN PLACES WHERE THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

+FROM NOW ON WE ARE NOT GOING TO USE TAR BUT CEMENT,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER VISITING KAMPUNG OLAK LEMPIT NEAR HERE TO SEE WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST CEMENT ROAD ON A +GOTONG ROYONG+ BASIS.

THE RATIONALE FOR THE MOVE, HE SAID, WAS BECAUSE CEMENT WAS +PLENTIFUL+ IN THE COUNTRY AND COULD BE OBTAINED AT MINIMAL PRICE AS WELL. +FURTHERMORE, WE STILL HAVE TO IMPORT TAR.+

+IF WE CONTINUE TO BUY TAR OUR CEMENT FACTORIES MAY CLOSE DOWN,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY 2 BANTING

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 1.6KM ROAD IS UNDERTAKEN BY ABOUT 200 LOCAL YOUTHS AND ALSO STUDENTS OF INSTITUT KEMAHIRAN MARA (IKM) AND THOSE SPECIALLY SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY FOR THE PROGRAMME.

THE PROJECT, COSTING ABOUT \$130,000 INCLUDING 5,600 BAGS OF CEMENT, IS FINANCED BY THE MINISTRY.

NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID, WHO WAS PRESENT, SAID IT COST ABOUT \$50,000 CHEAPER TO CONSTRUCT A 1.6KM CEMENT ROAD COMPARED TO A TAR ROAD OF THE SAME LENGTH.

+FURTHERMORE, IF IT IS DAMAGED, WE CAN JUST SEND THE CEMENT TO THE VILLAGERS WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE REPAIR,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI SANUSI HOPED THE CONCEPT OF CONSTRUCTING RURAL ROADS ON A +GOTONG ROYONG+ BASIS USING CEMENT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED NATIONWIDE BY THE MIDDLE OF JULY. -- MORE

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B E007 AAE
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY 3 BANTING

THIS, HE ADDED, WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER EVERY DISTRICT IN THE COUNTRY COULD SET UP A DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE (KPD) BY THE END OF JUNE.

THESE KPDS WOULD RECEIVE CEMENT SUPPLIES FROM THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE (KPN) WHICH WOULD OBTAIN THE CEMENT FROM THE FACTORIES.

+THIS WILL ENABLE US TO CHANNEL THE NECESSARY ALLOCATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CEMENT AND STEEL GODOWN IN EACH DISTRICT,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE HAD BEEN OBTAINED AND THE DESIGN COMPLETED.

HE VIEWED THE PROJECT AS ONE OF THE SUCCESSES OF THE +LOOK EAST+ POLICY AS IT INCORPORATED THE +GOTONG ROYONG+ SPIRIT THAT WAS RENOWNED AMONG THE SOUTH KOREANS AND THE USE OF HEAVY INDUSTRY PRODUCTS, IN THIS CASE CEMENT, AS IN JAPAN.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS EARLIER GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME BY THE VILLAGERS. AMONG THOSE ON HAND TO MEET HIM WERE DATUK SERI SANUSI, NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TAJOL ROSLI GHAZALI AND SELANGOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DATUK ABU BAKAR ABDUL HAMID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO PLANTED A TREE. -- BERNAMA
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