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MAHATHIR-CORPORATION  
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ALOR SETAR, MAY 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT ITS MOVE IN TRANSFERRING PROFITABLE COMPANIES BELONGING TO STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS TO AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL (ASN) HAS CREATED FEELINGS OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG STATE GOVERNMENTS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IF SUCH A MOVE WAS NOT MADE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH TO BUMIPUTERAS.

WHEN THE QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTING WEALTH TO THE PEOPLE DURING THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) WAS DISCUSSED, IT WAS FELT THAT THE CAPITAL GIVEN TO THE CORPORATIONS REALLY BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$15 MILLION KEDAH STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BUILDING HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO TRANSFER COMPANIES UNDER STATE CORPORATIONS TO ASN BECAUSE THE SHAREHOLDERS WERE THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

THE MOVE HAD CREATED DISSATISFACTION AMONG STATE GOVERNMENTS AND MANAGERS OF THE CORPORATIONS BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT IF THE PROFITS WERE TRANSFERRED TO ASN THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THEM.

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IN SETTING UP THE CORPORATIONS TO LET THEM ENJOY THE PROFITS.

RATHER, THE AIM WAS TO LET THE PEOPLE ENJOY THE WEALTH, ESPECIALLY THE BUMIPUTERAS WHO HAD BEEN PROMISED 30 PER CENT OF THE NATION'S WEALTH.

THIS WAS WHY THE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERRED THE SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES TO THE ASN, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN ADMINISTERING THE COUNTRY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING PROFITS FOR ITSELF.

+IN FACT, WE WOULD LIKE TO DISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH SO THAT ALL THE COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE NATION,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO REGRETTED THAT THE CORPORATIONS WERE STILL BESET BY PROBLEMS LIKE INEFFICIENCY AND MALPRACTICES.

THESE HAD LED TO LOSSES SUFFERED BY MANY OF THE 900 COMPANIES OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENTS, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+WE HAVE FORMED A SPECIAL BODY TO MONITOR THE OPERATIONS OF THESE COMPANIES,+ HE SAID.

WITH THIS +EARLY WARNING SYSTEM+ THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION BEFORE THE SITUATION WENT OUT OF CONTROL, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA

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