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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 16, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HOPES THE POLICIES THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON BY THE VARIOUS RACES WILL NO LONGER BE RAISED SO THAT NATIONAL UNITY AND STABILITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE ASSURED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN LIBERAL IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICIES COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN A SIMILAR POSITION, HE SAID AFTER MEETING A 17-MEMBER MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DELEGATION HERE YESTERDAY.

IN A STATEMENT TODAY, COUNCIL SECRETARY-GENERAL FUAD HASSAN SAID THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY YOUTH BODIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT YOUTH ORGANISATIONS STEP UP AND DIVERSIFY THEIR ACTIVITIES TO DRAW MORE YOUTHS AS MEMBERS.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO VIEWED WITH CONCERN THE EXPOSURE OF THE YOUTH TO FOREIGN CULTURE, ALTHOUGH HE FELT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME IN VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORK. -- MORE
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ENCIK FUAD SAID THAT AT THE MEETING, THE COUNCIL SPOKE OF ITS CONCERN OVER THE DIRECTION OF COMMUNAL UNITY, THE EFFECTS OF POLITICAL EXPLOITATION AMONG THE YOUTH AND SOCIAL ILLS. IT ALSO CALLED FOR THE YOUTH'S GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES BY ALLOCATING MORE MONEY FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD HELP THE COUNCIL SECURE A SITE IN THE CAPITAL FOR ITS HEADQUARTERS AND A YOUTH RECREATION CENTRE.

ENCIK FUAD SAID THE COUNCIL FULLY BACKED THE COUNTRY'S FIRM FOREIGN POLICY, ADDING THAT IT ALSO SUPPORTED THE BOYCOTT OF NEXT WEEK'S COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN SCOTLAND. -- BERNAMA
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