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B E766 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT  
BM

86 (2)  
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 27 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR THE LOW-COME GROUP ARE MEASURES IN UPHOLDING SOCIAL JUSTICE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT OBTAINED ITS FUNDS TO FINANCE LOW-COST HOUSING, ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY AND ROAD PROJECTS FROM TAXES IMPOSED ON THE RICH.

+THE RICH ARE TAXED 40 SEN FOR EVERY RINGGIT THEY OBTAIN AND FROM THIS THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE POOR,+ HE SAID.

+IS NOT BUILDING HOUSES FOR THE LOW-COME GROUP A FORM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE?+ HE ASKED WHEN OFFICIATING AT AN GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR A LOW-COST FLATS PROJECT AT GOMBAK NEAR HERE.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1,000 UNITS OF FLATS PRICED AT \$22,000 EACH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TAXING THE RICH AND USING THE MONEY TO FINANCE PROJECTS FOR THE LOW-INCOME GROUP IN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WAS A FORM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. -- MORE  
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B E771 AAE  
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+WE ARE DOING ALL THIS BECAUSE WE REALISE THAT WE WERE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE TO SERVE THEIR INTERESTS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID NOT ONLY THE RURAL BUT ALSO THE URBAN POOR WERE HELPED AS THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE AFFLUENT AND THE LOW INCOME GROUP.

SINCE THE TIME OF THE ALLIANCE TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL TODAY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO OTHER AIM THAN TO HELP THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+IT'S TRUE WE CANNOT SATISFY EVERYONE AND NO GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD CAN DO SO BUT WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT THE PEOPLE TO LIVE AS SQUATTERS, IT HAD IMPLEMENTED A HOUSING PROGRAMME TO BUILD 80,000 UNITS OF LOW COST HOUSES A YEAR OVER THREE YEARS. -- MORE  
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B E777 AAE  
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HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THOSE IN THE LOW-INCOME GROUP NEEDED COMFORTABLE HOUSES AT PRICES THEY COULD AFFORD.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE EFFORTS TO FIND HOW BEST THE PRICE OF LOW-COST HOUSES COULD BE REDUCED FURTHER FROM THE PRESENT \$25,000 TO \$22,000 LIKE THE ONES AT THE GOMBAK PROJECT.

THE UNITS IN GOMBAK WILL HAVE PIPED GAS AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A HUGE SUM HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS FOR BATU RESIDENTS AND HALF THE AMOUNT HAD BEEN SPENT SO FAR.

EARLIER, IN OPENING THE PROJECTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE PERIOD OF LAND LEASE IN KERAMAT FROM THE PRESENT 30 YEARS TO 99 YEARS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER MADE EMPTY PROMISES AS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE MANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. -- BERNAMA  
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