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MAHATHIR-GOVERNMENT

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA NEEDED A STRONG, EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, ONE THAT ONLY THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING AT THIS TIME.

+FOR A DEVELOPING COUNTRY THAT COMPRISES VARIOUS RACES AND RELIGIONS SUCH AS MALAYSIA, ONLY A STRONG GOVERNMENT CAN RUN THE COUNTRY PROPERLY, SINCERELY AND WITH CONFIDENCE,+ HE SAID.

+THE BN LEADERS HAVE THE INTEGRITY AND THE WILLINGNESS TO LEAD THE COUNTRY TOWARDS GREATER STABILITY AND PROGRESS,+ HE SAID IN A 15-MINUTE CERAMAH OVER PTM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SINCE MALAYSIA ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE 29 YEARS AGO, MALAYSIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE ALLIANCE AND ITS SUCCESSOR THE BN HAD BEEN OBVIOUS IN ALL FIELDS.

HE SAID NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN PLANNED WITH GREAT CARE, AND THE SIX FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDERTAKEN SO FAR HAD BROUGHT UNTOLD BENEFITS IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, BASIC AMENITIES AND INDUSTRIES, AMONG OTHER FIELDS. -- MORE

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+HUNDREDS OF SCHOOLS, SCORES OF COLLEGES AND SIX UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN SET UP, THERE ARE MORE HOSPITALS IN THE TOWNS AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF HEALTH CENTRES AND CLINICS IN THE RURAL AREAS, THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN OPENED, THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES OF ROADS HAVE BEEN BUILT AND IMPROVED, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY HAVE BEEN CHANNELLED TO THE REMOTEST OF AREAS, MORE LARGE INDUSTRIES HAVE COME UP, AND THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS, ENTREPRENEURS AND INTELLECTUALS HAS RISEN,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT AND BN CHAIRMAN, SPOKE OF THE BN'S EFFORTS FOR A CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY ADMINISTRATION WHERE WHATEVER SHORTCOMINGS THAT EXISTED WERE PINPOINTED AND RECTIFIED.

THIS TRADITION OF CHAMPIONING THE PEOPLE WOULD BECOME FURTHER ENTRENCHED IF THE BN WON THE GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS TRADITION HAD FORCED THE BN GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST TO TAKE CERTAIN LINES OF ACTION THAT WERE NOT POPULAR IF SEEN FROM THE SHORT TERM BUT WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY BRING GREAT BENEFITS TO THE NATION.

+THE COURAGE TO DO THIS AUGURS WELL FOR THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. OTHERWISE, IT WILL MERELY MEAN POLITICS OF POPULARITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID THIS EMPHASIS ON THE LONG-TERM HAD RESULTED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AMONG OTHER THINGS THE CLOCK-IN WORK SYSTEM, THE OPEN OFFICE CONCEPT, THE WEARING OF NAME TAGS, THE ONE-STOP PAYMENT CENTRES AND THE INJECTION OF UNIVERSAL VALUES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF THESE MEASURES HAD BEEN BORNE OUT, HE SAID.

ON THE ECONOMY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED AND THE PRIVATISATION POLICIES WERE MEANT TO GET THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN HELPING THE GOVERNMENT INCREASE ITS REVENUE AND AT THE SAME TIME LESSEN ITS FINANCIAL BURDEN, BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND PROMOTE GREATER ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO FELT THAT INDUSTRY SHOULD PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR FUTURE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT GAVE MORE ATTENTION TO HEAVY INDUSTRIES WHICH REQUIRED LARGE CAPITAL OUTLAY, HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLED WORKERS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF KAMPONGS AND THE RURAL AREAS REMAINED A CONCERN THAT WOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED, HE SAID. -- MORE
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IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED MODERN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR SMALLHOLDINGS AND PADI CULTIVATION, AS WELL AS PROMOTED COTTAGE INDUSTRIES AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF VILLAGES.

RESIDENTS OF NEW VILLAGES, ESTATES AND RURAL AREAS WERE BEING PROVIDED WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR A BETTER LIFE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS INCREASINGLY EARNING INTERNATIONAL RESPECT NOT ONLY FOR ITS FIRM STAND ON VARIOUS ISSUES BUT ALSO FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH CERTAIN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING DRUG ABUSE.

AS A RESULT, MANY COUNTRIES HAD SENT THEIR PEOPLE HERE TO STUDY AND LEARN FROM THE SYSTEMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS PIONEERED BY MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED THE PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR THE BN FOR A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT SO THAT THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR COULD BE CONTINUED FOR THE GREATER STABILITY AND WELLBEING OF THE NATION. -- BERNAMA
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