

U E814 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-PRIVATISATION  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH PRIVATISATION FOR AS LONG AS THIS CAN REDUCE ITS FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN AND THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

ITS PRIVATISATION POLICY WAS ALSO AIMED AT UPGRADING PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY IN MANUFACTURING AND IN PROVISION OF SERVICES, HE TOLD ENCIK KARPAL SINGH (DAP-JELUTONG) DURING QUESTION TIME IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

HE STRESSED THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO BOOST ECONOMIC GROWTH.

REPLYING TO OPPOSITION LEADER LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-TANJUNG), WHO SOUGHT CLARIFICATION ON THE PRIVATISATION OF SPORTS TOTO RECENTLY, HE SAID IT WAS THE RESULT OF A UNIQUE IDEA PUT FORWARD TO THE GOVERNMENT BY A CERTAIN GROUP

THE IDEA TO PRIVATISE SPORTS TOTO DID NOT COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT, UNLIKE THE PRIVATISATION OF OTHER AGENCIES PLANNED EARLIER, HE ADDED. -- MORE  
1730MST 11 03 87

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PARLIAMENT-PRIVATISATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR (HERE REPEAT WITH AMENDED SLUG)

TO ENCIK LIM'S CONTENTION THAT THE PRIVATISATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY OPEN TENDER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE FAIR AS THE IDEA CAME FROM THE GROUP.

THE GOVERNMENT FELT THE MOVE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO IT IN TERMS OF PROFITS AND REDUCTION OF ITS BURDEN.

ON THE MOVE BY SYARIKAT TELECOM MALAYSIA BERHAD (STM) TO INCREASE THE DEPOSIT FOR SUBSCRIBERS, HE SAID THIS WAS TO ENSURE THE COMPANY ACHIEVED THE PROFITS PROJECTED.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE SURE STM'S PROFIT-MAKING EFFORTS WOULD NOT BURDEN THE PEOPLE UNDULY. -- BERNAMA  
1735MST 11 03 87