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SENATE-MAHATHIR
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 23⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN OUT LOANS TO 82 FORMER DADAH ADDICTS SINCE 1984, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DEWAN NEGARA THAT THE MAXIMUM LOAN ISSUED TO EACH PERSON WAS \$2,000.

THE FORMER ADDICTS ACQUIRED THE LOANS TO VENTURE INTO VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS MANUFACTURING CONCRETE BLOCKS, REPAIRING SHOES AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, HE SAID.

TO A QUESTION BY SENATOR PUAN ROKIAH ZAINUDDIN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID LOANS WERE GIVEN TO FORMER ADDICTS WHO SHOWED INTEREST OR HAD SKILLS IN A PARTICULAR FIELD.

HE ALSO SAID FORMER ADDICTS RECEIVED SKILLS TRAINING IN VARIOUS FIELDS AT REHABILITATION CENTRES TO ENABLE THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT WHEN RETURNING TO SOCIETY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT MADE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE ISSUING THE LOANS TO ENSURE THE FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE FORMER ADDICTS WERE NOT MISUSED, ADDING THAT STUDIES WERE ALSO CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE IF THE PROJECTS THEY PLANNED TO UNDERTAKE COULD BRING IN PROFITS. -- MORE

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ALLOCATIONS APPROVED AFTER THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOME MINISTRY AND A FORMER ADDICT WAS NOT CHANNLED DIRECTLY TO THE APPLICANT BUT TO THE LOCAL DADAH REHABILITATION COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MONITOR AND ASSIST THE BUSINESS VENTURES.

OFFICERS FROM THE MINISTRY WOULD ALSO CHECK THE PROGRESS OF THE FORMER ADDICTS' PROJECTS FROM TIME TO TIME AS WELL AS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

TO A QUESTION BY SENATOR DATUK DR K.S.NIJHAR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DIRECTED ALL CIVIL SERVANTS (EXCEPT THOSE IN GROUP D) TO DECALRE THEIR ASSETS TO THEIR DISCIPLINARY BOARDS.

HE SAID THE DIRECTIVE WAS CONTAINED IN THE SERVICE CIRCULAR NO 3 OF 1981 AND SERVICE CIRCULAR NO 3 OF 1984, ADDING THAT WITH THIS REGULATION, AN OPEN DECLARATION OF ASSETS WAS NOT NECESSARY. -- MORE

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ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND COOPERATIVES, HE SAID THESE WERE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS SET UP AND MANAGED UNDER CERTAIN LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

ANY MATTER RELATED TO THE DECLARATION OF ASSETS OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' OFFICERS WAS DETERMINED BY THEIR MANAGEMENT, HE ADDED.

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