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MAHATHIR-BOOK
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(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 2000HRS TONIGHT)

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 12⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY AND MAKE SIZEABLE ALLOCATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNTIL THE GAP IN STANDARD OF LIVING BETWEEN THE RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES IS NARROWED.

SINCE INDEPENDENCE 30 YEARS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOCUSED ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND UNDER EACH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, MAJOR ALLOCATIONS WERE SET ASIDE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, HOPED TO SEE BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND WOULD TO STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL VALUES BESIDES UPGRADING PRODUCTIVITY AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE TO BE SELF-RELIANT.

+WE NEED TO ERASE THE ASSOCIATION OF RURAL AREAS WITH TERMS LIKE BACKWARD AND POVERTY,+ HE SAID IN HIS MESSAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT GUIDE BOOK OR BUKU MERAH DUA.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA WILL LAUNCH THE BOOK AIMED AT OUTLINING THE OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, IN BATU PAHAT, JOHOR, TOMORROW. -- MORE

1517MST 12 08 87

0242

R E850 DEE
MAHATHIR-BOOK 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BOOK GAVE EMPHASIS TO THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE DATA FOR ORGANISED DEVELOPMENT AT DISTRICT LEVEL AND TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS IN LINE WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION AND NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

IN THIS, HE SAID DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS WERE AT THE FRONTLINE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT MACHINERY.

HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AT DISTRICT LEVEL HAD BOTH TO SHOW INTEGRATED SERVICE AND COMMITMENT IN PROMOTING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE.

GOVERNMENT ASPIRATIONS TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO THE PEOPLE CAN BE REALISED WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL GROUPS, THE GOVERNMENT AND BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

+WE NEED TO SACRIFICE COMFORT AND TEMPORAL LUXURY IF WE WANT TO SECURE A HAPPY FUTURE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1529MST 12 08 87

0256

R E855 DEE
MAHATHIR-BOOK 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ONLY THEN WOULD THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED IN THE '60S BE FURTHER ENHANCED TO GREATER LEVELS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR A MORE ORGANISED, EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE METHOD OF POOLING MANPOWER AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES AMONG ALL GROUPS TO ENHANCE QUALITY AND PRODUCTION.

IN THIS, ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO RESEARCH EFFORTS AND TRAINING TO FURTHER INCREASE DEVELOPMENT AND THIS WAS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE DATA, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

1555MST 12 08 87