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B E036 AAE

EDS: PLS KILL EARLIER STORY +MAHATHIR-CARNIVAL+ 1ST TAKE AND REPLACE WITH FOLLOWING.

MAHATHIR-CARNIVAL (CORRECTING FIGURE)

BM

MELAKA, AUG 13⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED \$100 MILLION TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TDC) TO PROMOTE MALAYSIA AS AN INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DESTINATION.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE MOVE WAS ESSENTIAL AS MALAYSIA WAS STILL BEHIND IN THE TOURISM SECTOR COMPARED WITH THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

WITH THE ALLOCATION, TDC WOULD BE ABLE TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO PUT MALAYSIA ON THE WORLD TOURISM MAP, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MELAKA CARNIVAL, MELAKA ZOO AND EXPOSITION CENTRE IN AIR KERUH NEAR HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED MELAKA WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF ITS FACILITIES TO PROMOTE TOURISM ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

HE SAID HOWEVER THAT HISTORICAL BUILDINGS ALONE WERE NOT ENOUGH TO ATTRACT TOURISTS AS WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT PEOPLE WERE ALSO COURTEOUS AND FRIENDLY. -- MORE (CORRECTED REPETITION)

1725MST 13 08 87

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MAHATHIR-CARNIVAL 2 MELAKA

MELAKA HAD A NUMBER OF INTERESTING BUILDINGS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFORTS SHOULD BE STEPPED UP TO DEVELOP THE SECTOR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TOURISM COULD BECOME A LUCRATIVE REVENUE EARNER AND THE PEOPLE WOULD STAND TO BENEFIT IF MORE TOURISTS CAME TO THE COUNTRY.

DURING THE OPENING, MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK HANDED OVER TO THE PRIME MINISTER A MEMORANDUM DECLARING MELAKA A HISTORICAL CITY.

THE EXPOSITION CENTRE LOCATED IN A 10HA AREA AND COSTING \$3.4 MILLION HOUSES 90 PERMANENT STALLS AND AN AUDITORIUM CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING 1,500 PEOPLE.

THE 18-DAY CARNIVAL IS AIMED AT HIGHLIGHTING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AREAS SUCH AS TOURISM, CULTURE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-CARNIVAL 3 MELAKA

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME AT THE EXPOSITION SITE COMPLETE WITH A TRADITIONAL KOMPANG TROUPE AND +SIRIH+ BEARERS.

PRESENT WERE WORKS MINISTER DATUK S.SAMY VELLU, CULTURE AND TOURISM MINISTER DATUK SABBARUDDIN CHIK, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DATUK AMAR STEPHEN YONG, SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS MENTERIS BESAR.

AFTER THE OPENING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH RODE IN A HORSE CARRIAGE ESCORTED BY SIX POLICEMEN ON HORSEBACK TO THE MELAKA ZOO ADJACENT TO THE EXPOSITION SITE.

AT THE ZOO, THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE THE NAME +MINAH+ TO A BABY RHINOCEROS BORN THERE ON MAY 23.

HE LATER LEFT FOR A TEA PARTY AT SERI BENDAHARA, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER. -- BERNAMA

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