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MAHATHIR-MERDEKA  
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EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 TONIGHT

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 29 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE SPIRIT AND COURAGE OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE WILL REMAIN IN THE MEMORY OF THE PEOPLE.

+THE SPIRIT OF THEIR STRUGGLE SHOULD CONTINUE TO LIVE IN OUR MIND AND THAT OF THE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER AND LAUNCHING OF THE 1986 BUKU DAFTAR MERDEKA (INDEPENDENCE REGISTRATION BOOK) HERE.

HE SAID THE SPIRIT OF THESE FIGHTERS WOULD SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO SOCIETY IN EFFORTS TO STEER INDEPENDENCE TOWARDS THE DESIRED GOALS.

+AS SUCH, LET US NURTURE THE SPIRIT OF FIGHTING FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE NATION, COUNTRY AND RELIGION AND ONE WAY OF REINFORCING THIS SPIRIT IS BY REMEMBERING THE SERVICES RENDERED BY LEADERS WHO HAD FOUGHT TO FREE THE COUNTRY FROM COLONIALISM,+ HE ADDED.

THIS GROUP OF NATIONALISTS WERE NOT JUST THOSE WHO WAGED THEIR STRUGGLE AFTER WORLD WAR II BUT INCLUDED THOSE WHO HAD OPPOSED COLONIALISM DECADES EARLIER SUCH AS DATUK BAHAMAN, DATUK MANING, DATUK JANGGUT, ROSLI DOBI AND MAT SALLEH. -- MORE  
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HE SAID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOCIETY TODAY WAS TO CONTINUE THIS STRUGGLE BY FULFILLING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE TO SHAPE THIS COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE OBJECTIVES SET AND TO PRESERVE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPERITY FOREVER.

+THIS IS A TRUST AND A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY DIFFICULT TO DISCHARGE IF WE ARE NOT FULLY PREPARED TO FACE THE TESTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD OR TO SACRIFICE FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE INDEPENDENCE REGISTRATION BOOK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THE BOOK WAS IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF HISTORICAL VALUE AND WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR THE YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACETS OF THE COUNTRY.

FOR THE TOURISTS, IT WOULD PROVIDE A GLIMPSE OF THE CONDITIONS AND WAY OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID RECORDING THE NAMES OF COMPANIES THAT HAD SUCCEEDED IN SEVERAL COMPETITIVE ASPECTS IN THE BOOK WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

-- BERNAMA  
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