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MAHATHIR-ORANG ASLI
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY PROGRESSES IN PACE WITH THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID VARIOUS BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN EXISTING ORANG ASLI SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE IMPROVED AND EXPANDED UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN (FMP).

UNDER THE FMP, \$40 MILLION WERE ALLOCATED FOR ORANG ASLI DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES PLANNED FOR THEM INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF SIX NEW RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 1,000 FAMILIES.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE ORANG ASLI AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT MUSEUM AT KM 19 JALAN GOMBAK NEAR HERE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING BUILDING TWO SCHOOL HOSTELS AT A COST OF \$1.2 MILLION EACH IN RAUB IN PAHANG AND BUKIT LANJAN IN SELANGOR.

ON HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT AMONG OTHER THINGS WAS UPGRADING THE ORANG ASLI HOSPITAL IN GOMBAK, SUPPLYING IT WITH NEW EQUIPMENT COSTING \$3.3 MILLION. -- MORE
1327MST 29 09 87

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN FELDA SCHEMES PARTICULARLY WHERE ORANG ASLI WERE SMALL IN NUMBER FOR THE OPENING OF RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES.

HE SAID UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN FIVE ORANG ASLI REGROUPING PROJECTS INVOLVING 23,000 PEOPLE WERE IMPLEMENTED ALONG THE TITIWANGSA RANGE.

A TOTAL OF 13,600 HECTARES HAD BEEN DIVIDED AMONG THE REGROUPED COMMUNITY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY WILL EXPERIENCE RAPID AND ORDERLY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPT SUCH DEVELOPMENT WELL.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY LIVING IN THE INTERIOR WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE SECURITY FORCES IN ELIMINATING COMMUNIST TERRORIST REMNANTS. -- MORE
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THOUGH THE CT THREAT WAS NOT AS GRAVE AS IN THE 1950S AND 1960S, THE GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS WAS AWARE THE DANGER STILL EXISTED AND ALL QUARTERS SHOULD BE VIGILANT, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALSO WITNESSED AN ORANG ASLI TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HANDED OVER APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO 12 ORANG ASLI HEADMEN AND PENGHULUS.

CULTURE AND TOURISM MINISTER DATUK SABBARUDDIN CHIK, SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR WERE AMONG THOSE PRESENT. -- BERNAMA
1414MST 29 09 87