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MAHATHIR-TERENGGANU
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KUALA TERENGGANU, OCT 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DISMISSED RUMOURS THAT TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE RUMOURS WERE A LIE SPREAD BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO CREATE INSTABILITY IN THE STATE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO TERENGGANU WHICH ENDS TOMORROW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE PEOPLE HAD MADE UP THE STORIES TO CREATE A SITUATION OF UNCERTAINTY OVER WHO WAS NEXT TO COME INTO POWER IN THE STATE.

THIS GROUP DID NOT DARE COME FORWARD WITH AN OPEN STATEMENT ON THE MATTER, HE ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE URGED THE MASS MEDIA NOT TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO SUCH PEOPLE WHO WERE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO CREATE AN UNHEALTHY ATMOSPHERE IN THE STATE. -- MORE
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THERE HAD EARLIER BEEN SPECULATIONS AND PRESS REPORTS THAT DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR WOULD BE APPOINTED A CABINET MINISTER.

ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN KEDAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF THE RESOURCES WERE FOUND IN THE STATE, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ANY GROUP TO CARRY OUT EXPLORATION WORK TOGETHER WITH PETRONAS.

ON INDUSTRIALISATION IN TERENGGANU, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INVESTED \$5 BILLION IN THE STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND GAS RELATED PROJECTS.

TERENGGANU CURRENTLY ENJOYED ROYALTIES FROM PETROLEUM AND GAS RESOURCES, WHICH SOME OTHER STATES DID NOT HAVE, HE ADDED.

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHY PETROLEUM RELATED PROJECTS SUCH AS THE TUBE PROJECT TO LOWER THE LEAD CONTENT IN PETROLEUM WERE IMPLEMENTED IN PAHANG, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT SUCH PROJECTS BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE STATES TO ASSIST IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT. -- BERNAMA
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