

R E372 AAE

MAHATHIR - DIBELA

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 TONIGHT)

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 8 (BERNAMA) -- DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINED COOPERATION AMONG THEMSELVES TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

PROBLEMS LIKE UNFAVOURABLE TERMS OF TRADE, GROWING PROTECTIONISM AND DECLINING PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES COULD NOT BE REDRESSED IN ISOLATION NOR COULD THEY WAIT FOR A GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, HE SAID.

ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD TO TACKLE THESE PROBLEMS THEMSELVES TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PRODUCTS RECEIVED FAIR AND STABLE PRICES, HE SAID AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA SIR KINGSFORD DIBELA AT SRI PERDANA HERE.

SIR DIBELA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, LADY WINNIFRED DIBELA, AND 10 OFFICIALS ARRIVED HERE THIS MORNING FOR A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. -- MORE

2120MST 08 10 87

R E373 AAE

MAHATHIR - DIBELA 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT MALAYSIA WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION NOT ONLY IN TRADE BUT ALSO OTHER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS.

HE CONSIDERED THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH, HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA DR JULIUS NYERERE AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS GREATER COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD ALSO INITIATED ITS OWN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME -- THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP) -- TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE WITH OTHERS INCLUDING PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

IT WAS HOPED THAT THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE OF BENEFIT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CEMENTING THE EXISTING FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL WITH MALAYISA, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND MALAYSIA HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE AND IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN, NURTURE AND INVIGORATE FURTHER RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. -- MORE

2122MST 08 10 87

R E374 AAE

MAHATHIR - DIBELA 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+ I AM CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS INDED GREAT POTENTIAL FOR WIDER COOPERATION IN TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AREAS FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, + THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+ IT ONLY REMAINS FOR US, PARTICULARLY OUR PRIVATE SECTOR, TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS AND JOINTLY PROFIT FROM THEM. + -- BERNAMA

2123MST 08 10 87