

D285

B E737 AAE
MAHATHIR-FOREST
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ENGAGED IN SHIFTING CULTIVATION, ESPECIALLY IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, TO SWITCH TO PERMANENT FARMING TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

SUCH A MOVE WOULD ALSO SAVE THE COUNTRY'S FORESTS FROM DESTRUCTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA'S (RRIM) EXPERIMENTAL STATION AT SUNGAI BULUH HERE.

HE SAID PRACTITIONERS OF SHIFTING CULTIVATION FELLED TREES INDISCRIMINATELY TO PLANT PADI AND WHEN THE SOIL WAS NO LONGER FERTILE, MOVED TO OTHER AREAS TO REPEAT THE PROCESS.

THE TREES FELLED WERE NOT REPLANTED AND THIS HAD RESULTED IN BIG LOSSES TO THE COUNTRY, SUCH AS WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, HE ADDED.

CLEARING OF FORESTS WITHOUT PROPER PLANNING COULD NOT BE BLAMED SOLELY ON TIMBER CONCESSIONAIRES AS SHIFTING CULTIVATORS WERE ALSO THE CULPRITS, HE SAID. -- MORE
1724MST 16 11 87

D299

B E746 AAE
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HE SAID THE ETHNIC TRIBES SHOULD BE COAXED TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TO STAY PUT AND FARM IN ONE AREA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ON THE WHOLE, THE FORESTS IN THE COUNTRY WERE WELL-CONSERVED EXCEPT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WHERE THERE WAS A LOT OF SHIFTING CULTIVATION AND INDISCRIMINATE FELLING OF TREES.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS SERIOUS ABOUT FOREST CONSERVATION FOR THE GOOD OF ALL AND HAD SPECIFIED IN EVERY TIMBER LICENCE APPROVED THE TREES THAT COULD BE FELLED AND THOSE THAT NEEDED TO BE CONSERVED.

HE ALSO CRITICISED SOME GROUPS WHICH HE SAID HAD USED CERTAIN NATIVE TRIBES IN THE COUNTRY FOR ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

REFERRING TO THE PENANS OF SARAWAK, HE SAID THE PENANS +SHOULD NOT BE PUT ON SHOW BECAUSE THEY ARE ALSO ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS.+ -- MORE

1749MST 16 11 87

D303

B E748 AAE
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ON BRUNO MANSER, THE SWISS NATIONAL STAYING ILLEGALLY IN THE SARAWAK INTERIOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND WHO HAD INSTIGATED THE PENANS, HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR HIM AND IF HE COMES OUT, THE AUTHORITIES WILL ARREST HIM.+

HE SAID MANSER APPEARED TO BE ACTING LIKE THE +RAJAH BROOKE OF SARAWAK+ AND WANTED TO SET UP HIS OWN +KINGDOM+ THERE. +MANSER SHOULD SURRENDER TO THE AUTHORITIES,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE RECENT INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) DETENTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WOULD BE ISSUED SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF THE POLICE REPORT. THE PAPER WOULD TOUCH ON THE FINDINGS OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS. -- BERNAMA
1757MST 16 11 87