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MESSAGE-MAHATHIR

BM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 9 TONIGHT

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 31, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED ALL MALAYSIANS TO MAKE 1988 A BETTER AND HAPPIER YEAR BY AVOIDING ACTS THAT WILL ONLY BE TO THE LOSS OF ALL.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTROL SPENDING TO AVOID WASTAGE, REDUCE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND ACT MORE FIRMLY IN ENSURING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

+WE MUST MAKE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS NOT TO INTENTIONALLY OFFEND THE FEELINGS OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. TRIVIAL MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE BLOWN UP AND FANNED UNTIL THEY INFLAME THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID IN HIS NEW YEAR MESSAGE OVER RTM TONIGHT.

HE SAID ISSUES CONSIDERED MAJOR SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSIONS, AND THE MASS MEDIA WAS NOT THE FORUM FOR SETTling PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO DID NOT WANT MALAYSIANS, INCLUDING THOSE STUDYING OVERSEAS, TO TARNISH THE COUNTRY'S IMAGE BY SPREADING UNTRUTHS AND RUNNING DOWN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

1711MST 31 12 87

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MESSAGE-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+THEY SHOULD REALISE SUCH ACTS WILL HINDER FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY. WITH THIS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES WILL DIMINISH AND THEY TOO WILL BECOME THE VICTIMS,+ HE SAID.

TO THE UNEMPLOYED, THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED THEM TO RESOLVE TO BE PREPARED TO WORK AND NOT BE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS.

HE SAID THERE WERE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY, OTHERWISE FOREIGNERS WOULD BE TAKE THE TROUBLE TO COME TO MALAYSIA OR ENCROACH INTO ITS WATERS TO REAP ITS MARINE WEALTH.

TO WORKERS, HE ADVISED THEM TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PRODUCTIVITY, SAYING MALAYSIA HAD THE LOWEST PRODUCTIVITY PERFORMANCE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE COMPETITION THAT HAD TO BE FACED IN THESE TIMES AS WELL AS THE QUALITY AND PRICES OF GOODS THAT COULD DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF AN INDUSTRY WHICH IN TURN COULD BRING ABOUT OTHER EFFECTS. -- MORE

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MESSAGE-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON SALARIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEIR LEVEL WAS DETERMINED BY THE FINANCIAL ABILITY OF THE PAYING PARTY AND NOT DEMANDS OR THREATS.

THIS ABILITY DEPENDED ON THE SALEABILITY OF THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE WHICH IN TURN DEPENDED ON HIGH PRODUCTIVITY COUPLED WITH QUALITY.

+AS SUCH, WORKERS MUST RESOLVE TO FURTHER IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY IN 1988,+ HE SAID, URGING MANAGERS TO UPGRADE EFFICIENCY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS IN VIEW OF INDICATIONS OF LOW MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE IN MALAYSIA

HE ALSO WANTED A REDUCTION 'IF NOT TOTAL ELIMINATION OF WILD SPECULATIONS, SAYING THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY MANY BUSINESSMEN IN THE COUNTRY WERE DUE TO SPECULATIONS BEING RIFE, ESPECIALLY IN THE STOCK MARKET.

+THE STOCK MARKET PROVIDES A MEANS FOR RALLYING CAPITAL FROM THE PUBLIC TO START OR ENLARGE A BUSINESS. MANIPULATING SHARE PRICES TO RISE OR FALL REGARDLESS OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANY CONCERNED WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO DISASTER.+ -- MORE

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MESSAGE-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

AS SUCH, THE QUARTERS THAT LIKE TO SPECULATE IN THE STOCK MARKET SHOULD CUT DOWN ON THESE ACTIVITIES AND MAKE A RESOLUTION TO TURN THEIR ENERGY, TIME AND MIND TO MANAGING A REAL BUSINESS, + HE ADDED.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR REFERRED TO VARIOUS EVENTS THAT HAD OCCURRED DURING 1987, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +PRESSING AND CHALLENGING.+

THEY INCLUDED THE WORLDECONOMIC RECESSION THAT HAD BAOLY AFFECTED THE TININDUSTRY, THE WORLD SHARE MARKET CRASH AS A RESULT OF OVER-SPECULATION, RACIAL TENSION AND ACTIVITIES DISCREDITING MALAYSIA OVERSEAS. -- BERNAMA

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