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MAHATHIR-DINNER

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT HIT OUT AT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WHICH MADE USE OF THE BODIES FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

HE SAID THERE WERE +FAR TOO MANY ASSOCIATIONS THAT START OF AS AN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONALS BUT BECOME ATTRACTED BY OTHER SIDE ISSUES+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN CALLED ON ALL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THEIR PROFESSION.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS THINK MORE ABOUT UPGRADING THEIR PROFESSION THAN JUGGLING ISSUES THAT WERE NOT OF THEIR CONCERN.

+I AM QUITE SURE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA (MBAM) IS VERY CONSCIOUS ABOUT ITS PROFESSION AND HOPE IT WILL MAINTAIN IT,+ HE SAID AT THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF MBAM HERE. -- MORE
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+I AM (ALSO) SURE THE BUILDERS OF MALAYSIA ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS ALL THE TIME IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR PROFESSION AND ASSOCIATION AN HONOURABLE ONE,+ HE ADDED.

THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARD OF SKILLS AND ETHICS WAS NECESSARY TO MBAM AND ESPECIALLY TO THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED, MALAYSIA RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTION OF MBAM TO THE COUNTRY AND PRAISED THE LOCAL BUILDERS WHO, ACCORDING TO HIM, WERE AS EFFICIENT AND SKILFUL AS FOREIGN BUILDERS.

COMMENTING ON THE SUGGESTION MADE BY MBAM PRESIDENT TAN SRI YEOH TIONG LAY IN HIS SPEECH EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUGGESTION WAS +VERY SOUND AND WILL NOT LET IT GO WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION+.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK INTO THE SUGGESTION BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION. -- MORE
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IN HIS SPEECH, TAN SRI YEOH ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE PRICES OF MAJOR BUILDING MATERIALS WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIM, WAS HIGH.

REVIEWING THE PRICES TO APPROPRIATE LEVELS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MORE PROJECTS AND THESE WOULD STIMULATE GROWTH IN THE INDUSTRY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, ALSO PRESENTED THE LIFE PRESIDENT AWARD TO TAN SRI YEOH AND MEMENTOES OF APPRECIATION TO MBAM COUNCIL MEMBERS. -- BERNAMA
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