

D200

U E065 AAE

MAHATHIR-TIMBER (CORRECTED RPT, INSERTING NAME OF PLANT IN PARA FOUR)

BM

SIBU, JULY 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED SEVERAL GROUPS IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE TRYING TO CAUSE A BOYCOTT OF MALAYSIA TIMBER BY ALLEGING THAT FELLING OF TREES IN THIS COUNTRY HAS AFFECTED THE GLOBAL CLIMATE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE GROUPS HAD ADVISED MALAYSIA TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE ITS FORESTS FOR A BETTER WORLD CLIMATE.

HE STRESSED THAT EXPORTING OF TIMBER BY MALAYSIA DID NOT MEAN IT WAS INSENSITIVE TO WORLD CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. THE COUNTRY HAD ALWAYS ADOPTED A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE IN FOREST CONSERVATION, HE SAID.

+MALAYSIA IS A POOR COUNTRY AND IS JUST DEVELOPING AND IT IS IMPORTANT FOR IT TO EARN A LITTLE REVENUE FROM ITS RICH FOREST RESOURCES,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING A PLYWOOD PLANT -- PLYWOOD RIMBUNAN HIJAU SDN BHD -- AT ENSURAI NEAR HERE.

+IN FACT, COUNTRIES THAT ARE SO EAGER TO PROTECT THE WORLD CLIMATE SHOULD OFFER GOOD PRICES FOR OUR TIMBER SO THAT WE NEED TO EXPORT LESS TO GET SUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS,+ HE ADDED.
-- MORE

1836MST 04 07 88

D110

U E004 AAE

MAHATHIR-TIMBER 2 SIBU

HE SAID IT WAS NOT LOGICAL AND RATIONAL TO EXPECT A POOR COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA TO HELP RICH COUNTRIES SAFEGUARD THEIR CLIMATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR MALAYSIA TO HELP RICH COUNTRIES PROTECT THEIR CLIMATE AS LOGGING IN THE COUNTRY WAS NOT UNDERTAKEN INDISCRIMINATELY.

+THAT IS WHY WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE SLASH AND BURN CULTIVATION AS THIS WILL SPOIL OUR FORESTS,+ HE SAID.

UNFORTUNATELY, THESE GROUPS WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS AND DID NOT KNOW OR DELIBERATELY DID NOT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MALAYSIA'S INITIATIVES, AND, INSTEAD, MADE LOGGING AN ISSUE TO DISCREDIT MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE WARY OF THE CAMPAIGNS BY THESE GROUPS BECAUSE THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE DETRIMENTAL TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. -- MORE

1550MST 04 07 88

D111

U E005 AAE

MAHATHIR-TIMBER 3 SIBU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ASKED TIMBER COMPANIES TO GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO PROCESSING OF TIMBER FOR VALUE-ADDED BENEFIT TO ENHANCE THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

HE SAID MALAYSIA, AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TIMBER EXPORTERS, SHOULD VENTURE INTO MORE EXPORT-ORIENTED WOOD-BASED INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS PRODUCING PRODUCTS HAVING A DISTINCTIVE MALAYSIA STYLE. -- BERNAMA

1550MST 04 07 88