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U E226 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PESTA  
BM

PORT DICKSON, JULY 22 (BERNAMA) -- THE PROFITS EARNED BY THE COUNTRY ARE SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL AREAS AND NOT CONFINED TO ONLY PARTICULAR AREAS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY COULD NOT BE DIVIDED INTO SEPARATE PARTS BUT ALL AREAS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT.

+WITH THE HOLDING OF PESTA (FESTIVALS) HERE AND THERE AND GROWTH OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, ALL PEOPLE WILL GET TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS,+ HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE PESTA PORT DICKSON 88 AT THE RECLAIMED AREA HERE.

HE SAID THE BENEFITS RESULTING FROM PESTA PORT DICKSON FOR EXAMPLE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA BUT SPILL OVER TO THE REST OF THE PEOPLE, SIMILARLY WITH FESTIVALS HELD IN OTHER PLACES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALWAYS SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED EFFORTS TO ORGANISE SUCH EVENTS BECAUSE +WHILE PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT, THEY ALSO HELP BOOST THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.+

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U E228 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PESTA 2 PORT DICKSON

HE SAID EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE TOURISM INDUSTRY WERE NOT AIMED AT PROFITTING ONLY HOTEL OWNERS BUT ALSO THE SMALL TRADERS SUCH AS FOOD AND HANDICRAFT SELLERS AS WELL AS GENERATING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO ENRICH ONLY ONE GROUP BUT WAS WILLING TO ALLOW IT ONLY IF +EVERYBODY ELSE CAN BENEFIT AS WELL.+

+SINCE HOTELS PROVIDE FOOD FOR THEIR GUESTS AND VISITORS, THOSE SELLING PRODUCE INCLUDING VEGETABLES WILL PROFIT FROM THE GROWTH OF THE HOTEL SECTOR,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED MORE THAN \$1 BILLION FOR AGRO-BASED, TOURISM AND MANUFACTURING PROJECTS.

IT WAS AWARE THE TOURISM INDUSTRY HAD GREAT POTENTIAL BECAUSE TOURISTS RARELY OWED BUT SETTLED THEIR BILLS AND PAID FOR THEIR PURCHASES IN CASH. -- MORE

2113MST 22 07 88

U E230 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PESTA 3 PORT DICKSON

HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY WOULD PROFIT THE GOVERNMENT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY MAKE POSSIBLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PROVIDING VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT EARNED MORE REVENUE, MANY THINGS COULD BE DONE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A SALARY INCREASE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD BE BRIGHTER.

+IF NATIONAL REVENUE DOES NOT INCREASE, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED AND THE QUESTION OF SALARY INCREASE MIGHT HAVE TO BE DEFERRED,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE ECONOMY APPEARS TO BE SHOWING SIGNS OF RECOVERY FOLLOWING HIGHER PRICES FOR PRIMARY COMMODITIES AND THE RE-OPENING OF TIN MINES, WHILE THE NATIONAL CAR PROTON SAGA IS SELLING BETTER THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT POLITICAL STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY WERE ESSENTIAL FOR GAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS. -- MORE

2125MST 22 07 88

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MAHATHIR-PESTA 4 PORT DICKSON

+UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE CERTAIN GROUPS TRYING TO BLOCK GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SUCH AS BY TAKING CASES TO COURT,+ HE ADDED.

HE IS CONFIDENT THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WILL RECOVER SPEEDILY IF THE GOVERNMENT IS STRONG AND SUCH ACTS WERE STOPPED BECAUSE +WE HAVE SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, BETTER THAN SOME OF OUR RIVALS.+

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO ARRIVED AT PADANG MERDEKA BY +NURI+ HELICOPTER WAS DRIVEN TO THE FESTIVAL SITE 1.6KM AWAY IN A CAR DECORATED TO LOOK LIKE A BOAT.

THE 18-DAY PESTA PORT DICKSON, THE SECOND TO BE HELD, STARTED YESTERDAY. -- BERNAMA