

0365

U E735 AAE

JETTY-MAHATHIR (CORRECTION TO TIME IN PARA TWO)

BM

BUTTERWORTH, AUG 1 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE FERRY JETTY COLLAPSE HERE YESTERDAY AS A TRAGEDY THAT WAS NOT FORESEEN AS THE AREA HAD BEEN INSPECTED PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT.

HE SAID PENANG PORT COMMISSION (PPC) HAD ALSO BEEN AT THE JETTY BEFORE THE COLLAPSE AT ABOUT 4.40PM TO HELP CONTROL THE MASSIVE CROWD PACKING THE TERMINAL.

+PPC CHAIRMAN SYED MOHAMAD AIDID WAS ALSO THERE BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE SITUATION WAS BEYOND CONTROL BECAUSE OF THE HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP THE VICTIMS BUT DID NOT ELABORATE.

HE SAID THE PULAU PINANG GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS HAD ALSO PROMISED TO EXTEND AID. -- MORE (ENDS CORRECTED REPETITION)
1312MST 01 08 88

U E738 AAE

JETTY-MAHATHIR 2 BUTTERWORTH

HE TOLD REPORTERS THIS BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AT ABOUT 10.40AM AFTER VISITING THE INJURED AT THE BUTTERWORTH DISTRICT AND PULAU PINANG GENERAL HOSPITALS. HE ALSO PAID HIS LAST RESPECTS TO THOSE KILLED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE WELFARE ORGANISATION OF WIVES OF MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS (BAKTI) HAD PLEDGED TO GIVE FINANCIAL AID.

THE PPC WILL GIVE \$2,000 EACH TO FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED AS A PRELIMINARY GESTURE TO EASE THEIR BURDEN.

HE SAID THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WOULD BE DIRECTED TO INVESTIGATE INTO THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ISSUED A GENERAL DIRECTIVE TO THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE A SIMILAR INCIDENT WOULD NOT OCCUR AT THE RAJA TUN UDA JETTY.

HE THANKED ALL HOSPITAL STAFF AND DOCTORS WHO HAD EXTENDED ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING THE TRAGEDY. -- MORE
1318MST 01 08 88

U E739 AAE

JETTY-MAHATHIR 3 BUTTERWORTH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO ARRIVED THIS MORNING, SPENT ABOUT TWO HOURS VISITING THE INJURED. HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE MEDICAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO THEM.

HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH HANDED OVER A \$10,000 DONATION FROM BAKTI TO CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU. THE MONEY IS FOR A FUND SET UP FOR VICTIMS OF THE TRAGEDY.

ACCORDING TO THE STATE OPERATIONS ROOM TODAY, 31 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND HUNDREDS MORE INJURED WHEN PART OF THE PASSENGER PLATFORM ON THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE JETTY GAVE WAY AT ABOUT 4.40PM UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE MASSIVE CROWD.

-- BERNAMA

1321MST 01 08 88