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MAHATHIR-OFFICERS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 23<sup>88</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY A COUNTRY WILL EITHER PROGRESS OR REMAIN BACKWARD DEPENDING ON THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS ADMINISTRATION AS SEEN IN SEVERAL NEWLY EMERGED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE EAST.

+WITHOUT A GOOD ADMINISTRATION, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A COUNTRY TO PROGRESS DESPITE ITS WEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE,+ HE SAID.

HE URGED ALL CIVIL SERVANTS TO BE AWARE OF THIS AND GIVE OF THEIR BEST AT WORK SO THAT THEY COULD TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO BRINGING THE COUNTRY TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO SENIOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICERS INCLUDING THOSE IN THE ARMY AND POLICE BEFORE HAVING A CLOSED DIALOGUE WITH THEM ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION AND POLICIES AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE DIALOGUE IS ORGANISED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (INTAN). -- MORE  
1154MST 23 01 88

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THE DIALOGUE IS BEING HELD TO ENABLE THE PRIME MINISTER OUTLINE THE DIRECTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND CLARIFY THE IDEAS BEHIND POLICIES ADOPTED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND THE SENIOR OFFICERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

PRESENT WERE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR AND THE SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT IT WAS FUTILE FOR ONE GROUP TO BLAME THE OTHER, FOR EXAMPLE, BETWEEN CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICIANS AND TRADE UNIONS AND MANagements, IN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY.

IN REALISING THE OBJECTIVE TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY, NO ONE PERSON WAS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH, HE ADDED.

THE IMPORTANT THING, HE SAID, WAS THAT +EVERYONE DOES HIS BEST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION.+

+EACH SHOULD ASK HIMSELF THE QUESTION OF WHAT HE HAS CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS REALISING THE COUNTRY'S OBJECTIVES AND NOT PUT THE BLAME ON OTHERS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EVERY SENIOR OFFICER HAD POTENTIAL WHICH IF FULLY UTILISED WOULD LEAD TO GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS.

HE SAID IN THE COUNTRY'S 30 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT WAS FAR HIGHER THAN WHEN COMPARED TO THE PERIOD UNDER COLONIAL RULE.

THIS MEANS THAT THE COUNTRY HAD SUCCEEDED IN HAVING A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF RULE WHICH WAS FAR MORE DIFFICULT NOW THAN DURING COLONIAL RULE AS THERE WAS A NEED AT PRESENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REACTION AND VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS SUCCESS WAS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF AND FURTHER ENHANCED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CLARIFIED GOVERNMENT POLICIES INCLUDING PRIVATISATION AND THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT AND SLOGANS INTRODUCED TO UPGRADE THE PUBLIC SERVICES. -- MORE  
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ON PRIVATISATION, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE POLICY WAS NOT AIMED AT SELLING OFF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HENCE SALE SHOULD BE ACCORDING TO THE WORTH OF THE PROPERTY INVOLVED TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT FACED WITH LOSSES.

EACH PIECE OF PROPERTY OR SERVICE HANDED OVER TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS DONE AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROFITS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHILE THE PUBLIC SECTOR WOULD NO LONGER BEAR THE OPERATIONAL COSTS.

THE PROFITS OBTAINED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THROUGH MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT WOULD ALSO MEAN PROFITS FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF TAX REVENUE, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CLARIFIED THAT THE PRIVATISATION POLICY WAS NOT ONLY CONFINED TO MALAYSIA ALONE BUT WAS ALSO PRACTISED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT IN BRITAIN, SIX AIRPORTS WERE PRIVATISED BASED ON PROJECTED PROFITS AND NOT PROPERTY VALUE.

ON THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT, HE SAID THIS WAS NOT FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUT ALSO TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO BE OPEN-MINDED AND REALISE THAT IF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRESSED, THE PEOPLE WOULD ALSO ENJOY THE BENEFITS THROUGH THE CHANNELING OF TAX REVENUE COLLECTED FROM THE SECTOR BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT. -- BERNAMA  
1331MST 23 01 88