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JITRA, MARCH 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO EMULATE THE +KAIZAN+ SPIRIT OF THE JAPANESE TO CONTINUALLY HELP TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES AND PROGRESS SO THAT THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTED BY OTHERS.

IN THIS WAY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AND PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE WOULD GO ON UNINTERRUPTED, HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENT IN KUBANG PASU DISTRICT HERE, HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST MALAYA'S ECONOMY WAS BASED ON THE DISCOVERY OF TIN AND LATER THE CULTIVATION OF RUBBER AND FINALLY MALAYSIA BECAME WELL KNOWN FOR ITS PALM OIL.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THESE DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE AT SPECIFIC PERIODS WHILE THE SUCCESS OF THE JAPANESE THROUGH THE +KAIZAN+ SYSTEM WAS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS WITH THE DISCOVERY OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS FROM TIME TO TIME,

HE SAID THE APPLICATION OF SUCH METHOD WAS NOT LIMITED TO THE PLANNERS OR SCIENTISTS ONLY BUT SHOULD COVER ALL STRATA OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, FARMERS, LABOURERS AND OTHERS. -- MORE
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CITING AN EXAMPLE OF UNINTERRUPTED PROGRESS, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE PROTON SAGA WAS LAUNCHED, IT WAS MEANT FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET BUT AS A RESULT OF DETERMINED EFFORTS, THE NATIONAL CAR COULD NOW BE MARKETED TO EUROPE AND SOON TO THE UNITED STATES.

ON THE CONCEPT OF MALAYSIA INCORPORATED, HE SAID IT WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IF ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WORKED WITH ONE ANOTHER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ATTITUDE OF BLAMING ONE ANOTHER WHENEVER A PROJECT FAILED NEEDED TO BE ERADICATED IF THE COUNTRY WAS TO PROGRESS.

HE ALSO URGED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO HELP CHANGE THE ATTITUDE OF MALAYS LIVING IN THE KAMPUNGS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN ORGANISED VILLAGES.

IF THE MALAYS MAINTAINED THEIR OLD WAYS OF THINKING AND CONTINUED TO CARRY OUT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH OLD METHODS, THEY WOULD NOT PROGRESS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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HE ALSO TOLD GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE THE PEOPLE WELL AND NOT WORK MERELY FOR THEIR SALARIES.

TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT, ALL MUST HAVE SELF-DISCIPLINE, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WOULD BE MORE INNOVATIVE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PROJECTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

ON CLEANLINESS, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED GOVERNMENT STAFF IN KUBANG PASU TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE MATTER AS THE DISTRICT WAS A MAJOR NORTHERN GATEWAY TO THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID EFFORTS TO MAKE KUALA LUMPUR A CLEAN CITY HAD SUCCEEDED AND ITS CLEANLINESS HAD BEEN LAUDED BY VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

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+AS SUCH, I DON'T SEE WHY KUBANG PASU CANNOT BE MADE A CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL DISTRICT TO BE EMULATED BY OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTRY.+

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING BY DISTRICT OFFICER HAJI ISMAIL SHAFIE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER ATTENDED LUNCH AT THE DISTRICT OFFICER'S RESIDENCE.

SPEAKING AT THE FUNCTION, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF URGED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND STAFF TO UPGRADE COOPERATION AND THE SPIRIT OF COMRADESHIP TO ENSURE BETTER SERVICE.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD REGARD THEIR WORKING PLACE, THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE AS +ASSETS+ THAT NEEDED TO BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF AT ALL TIMES. -- BERNAMA

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