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B E484 AAE

MAHATHIRS-IDOLISE R' R' R' R' R' R'

BM

KANGAR, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- THE LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT (SEMARAK) TO FOSTER CLOSER RAPPORT BETWEEN LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE IS NOT AIMED AT MAKING SPECIFIC LEADERS THE OBJECT OF A PERSONALITY CULT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND NOR ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO ADULATE SPECIFIC LEADERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE SEMARAK FOR PERLIS STATE AT SUNGAI BATU PAHAT, 12KM FROM HERE.

HE SAID HE ORDERED A STOP OF THE ADULATION OF LEADERS UPON BEING MADE EDUCATION MINISTER IN 1971, WHEN HE PUT A PROSCRIPTION TO THE NAMING OF SCHOOLS AFTER MINISTERS OR LEADERS STILL LIVING.

THE DIRECTIVE WAS EXTENDED TO THE NAMING OF ROADS, BUILDINGS AND HISTORICAL PLACES AS WELL WHEN HE BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER IN 1981.

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1938MST 10 04 88

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B E487 AAE

MAHATHIRS-IDOLISE 2 KANGAR R' R' R' R' R' R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE REJECTED A REQUEST BY PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU TO NAME THE PULAU PINANG BRIDGE AFTER HIM (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR).

HE SAID THIS CLEARLY SHOWED HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO HAVE OR ALLOW ANY PRACTICE OF IDOLISING LEADERS.

+UNFORTUNATELY, MY ADMINISTRATION IS NOW ACCUSED OF TRYING TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF ADULATION OF LEADERS WHEN THERE HAD BEFORE ITS TIME BEEN THE PRACTICE OF IDOLISING LEADERS THROUGH ACCORDING THEM THE TITLE OF +BAPA+ (FATHER) OF THIS AND +BAPA+ OF THAT,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT SEMARAK WAS LAUNCHED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENABLING LEADERS TO GET CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE AND UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS.

THROUGH SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND LEADERS COULD BE MADE STRONGER AND MORE CORDIAL TO SMOOTHEN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE

1954MST 10 04 88

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B E489 AAE

MAHATHIRS-IDOLISE 3 KANGAR R' R' R' R' R' R'

SEMARAK WAS LAUNCHED WITH A NOBLE AIM AND ONLY THOSE WITH BAD INTENT WOULD CAST ASPERSIONS AGAINST IT.

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO SADDENED BY THE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN GROUPS IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH FED INFORMATION TO SOME HONG KONG-BASED NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES TO PUT OUT DEROGATORY ARTICLES ABOUT MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THEIR ACTIONS WERE DAMAGING THE COUNTRY AND CAUSED APPREHENSION AMONG FOREIGN INVESTORS TO PLOUGH THEIR CAPITAL INTO MALAYSIA.

MALAYSIA NEEDED FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO OPEN FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES TO GIVE THE UNEMPLOYED AND OTHER PEOPLE JOBS.

INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE LOYALTY GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE TO LEADERS WOULD ENABLE THE LEADERS TO DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES MORE EFFECTIVELY. -- BERNAMA

2004MST 10 04 88