

B E173 AAE
MAHATHIR-NIC R R R R R

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TELUK INTAN, APRIL 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA EMERGING AS A NEWLY-INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY (NIC), POSSIBLY WITHIN A DECADE, DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF QUARTERS IN THE COUNTRY ITSELF TRYING TO HINDER ATTAINMENT OF THIS.

HE SAID HIS CONFIDENCE STEMMED FROM THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THE INTEREST OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IN LOCATING THEIR INDUSTRIES IN MALAYSIA.
SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE ARE AMONG THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PASIR SALAK BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER LAUNCHING THE LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT (SEMARAK) CAMPAIGN FOR PERAK AT KAMPUNG GAJAH, 27KM FROM HERE.

HE WAS ELABORATING ON HIS STATEMENT AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY WHICH HAD MADE PASSING MENTION OF THE PREDICTION BY SOME INTELLECTUALS THAT MALAYSIA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN NIC IN SIX YEARS. -- MORE
1852HBT 15 04 88

B E183 AAE
MAHATHIR-NIC 2 TELUK INTAN R R R R R

HE SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH SOME PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE NATION IS NOT CAPABLE OF BECOMING AN NIC WITHIN THE PERIOD PROJECTED ON +GROUNDS+ THAT MALAYSIA WOULD HAVE A POPULATION OF 70 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000.

SUCH AN ASSUMPTION, HE SAID, WAS WRONG BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROJECTED A 70 MILLION POPULATION IN 112 YEARS OR BY THE YEAR 2100.

MAKING NEGATIVE STATEMENT DENYING THE COUNTRY'S CAPABILITY TO BECOME AN NIC IS AS BAD AS THE THINKING BY SOME PEOPLE EARLIER THAT MALAYSIA CANNOT PRODUCE ITS OWN CAR OR SET UP ITS OWN STEEL PLANT, ACCORDING TO HIM.

TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ON WHETHER MALAYSIA WILL LOSE CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, FOR INSTANCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, IF IT JOINS THE RANKS OF THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FACE SUCH A LOSS WHEN IT BECOMES A RICH OR DEVELOPED COUNTRY.

ANY COUNTRY HAD A CHOICE OF REMAINING POOR OR BECOMING RICH, HE ADDED.

HE DESCRIBED A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO PROGRESS AS A COUNTRY WITHOUT +ANY PRIDE.+ -- MORE
1931HBT 15 04 88

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B E185 AAE
MAHATHIR-NIC 3 TELUK INTAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE SEMARAK CAMPAIGN WOULD BE CONTINUED AFTER THE HARI RAYA PUASA IN ALL STATES AS IT HAD BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN PROVIDING AN AVENUE FOR LEADERS TO MEET THE PEOPLE AND BRIEF THEM.

HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE RESPONSE TO SEMARAK IN KAMPUNG GAJAH, THE THIRD IN THE SEMARAK SERIES LAUNCHED SO FAR. THE NATIONAL-LEVEL MOVEMENT WAS LAUNCHED IN KELANTAN FOLLOWED BY THE PERLIS STATE-LEVEL MOVEMENT IN SUNGAI BATU PAHAT RECENTLY.

BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES WITH PERAK BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AT SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN TOK PELITA, PASIR SALAK. IT IS BELIEVED HE BRIEFED THEM ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO UMNO BARU.

EARLIER, SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE PERAK SEMARAK CAMPAIGN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD THE 15,000 CROWD TO REJECT THINKING THAT CAN CREATE DISUNITY, SUCH AS GROUPING PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR STATE OF ORIGIN.

HE DESCRIBED QUARTERS TRYING TO CREATE DIVISIVENESS AND RUNNING DOWN THEIR OWN NATION AS +MAHKLUK PEROSAK+ (PREDATOR PESTS). -- MORE
1944MST 15 04 88

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B E193 AAE
MAHATHIR-NIC 4 TELUK INTAN

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF BY BECOMING EMBROILED IN CONFLICTS BECAUSE THIS WOULD RETARD DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

ON DEMOCRACY, HE SAID THE PEOPLE COULD USE THE POWER OF THE BALLOT TO REJECT ANY LEADER NOT LOYAL TO THE COUNTRY OR UNABLE TO FULFIL THEIR ASPIRATIONS, WITHOUT ANY BLOODSHED OR CONFLICT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF CONDUCTING ITSELF AS AN +ELITIST+ GOVERNMENT WHERE ONLY A SMALL GROUP RULED OVER A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

BASED ON THIS AWARENESS, THE SEMARAK CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED SO LEADERS COULD GET CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST DURING BUT ALSO OFF THE ELECTION SEASONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S 35-MINUTE SPEECH WAS GREETED BY SHOUTS OF +KAMI MAHU MAHATHIR+ (+WE WANT MAHATHIR+).

WHEN THOSE PRESENT SHOUTED +HIDUP MAHATHIR+ (LONG LIVE MAHATHIR), THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THEM +LEADERS COME AND GO AND NO LEADER CAN STAY AROUND FOREVER.+ -- MORE
2008MST 15 04 88

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U E199 AAE

MAHATHIR-NIC 5 TELUK INTAN

HE SAID WHAT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THOSE ASPIRING TO BE LEADERS WAS TO HAVE THE PATIENCE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE AND NOT USE DEMOCRACY TO DESTROY EXISTING HARMONY.

AFTER THE FUNCTION, PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB HANDED OVER TO THE PRIME MINISTER A CHEQUE FOR \$18,000, COLLECTED FROM THE PEOPLE OF PERAK FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S FUND.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOURED THE STALLS PUT UP ON AN ISLAND IN SUNGAI PERAK LOCATED BEHIND KAMPUNG GAJAH TOWN. HE STOPPED AT EACH STALL REPRESENTING THE 23 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN PERAK AND STALLS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO INSTALLED A DOOR FOR A SHEEP PEN AND PRESENTED FOUR SHEEP TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE +KAMPUNG GAJAH RURAL REVOLUTION+ PROJECT.

HE TOOK PART IN A SAMPAN-ROWING COMPETITION IN SUNGAI PERAK AND JOINED THE PEOPLE FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS AT PASIR SALEK MOSQUE. --
BERNAMA

2037MST 15 04 88