

0845

U E087 ENG

MAHATHIR-HANDICAPPED

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THERE SHOULD NOT BE EXCESSIVE FEELING OF PITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED TO THE EXTENT OF INCREASING THEIR DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FEELING OF PITY SHOULD BE LIMITED SO AS TO CURTAIL SUCH NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.

SPEAKING TO INMATES OF THE REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN CHERAS AT A BREAKING-OF-FAST RECEPTION, HE SAID THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN TRAINING TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT AND BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN LIVES LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT THROUGH PROPER TRAINING, THE HANDICAPPED SHOULD BE ABLE TO FACE CHALLENGES AND FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE DID NOT WANT TO BE LOOKED DOWN UPON BECAUSE OF THEIR HANDICAP AND SOCIETY SHOULD RESPECT THEM WHEN THEY DISCARDED THEIR ATTITUDE OF DEPENDENCY. -- MORE

2233MST 10 05 88

0849

U E091 ENG

MAHATHIR-HANDICAPPED 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ADEQUATE TRAINING WOULD PREPARE THEM TO FACE THE VARIOUS CHALLENGES BESIDES MAKING THEM USEFUL NOT ONLY TO THE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO TO THEMSELVES, + HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT SET UP REHABILITATION AND TRAINING CENTRES FOR THE HANDICAPPED TO ENABLE THEM ACQUIRE SKILLS SO THAT THEY COULD LEAD NORMAL LIVES.

THE HANDICAPPED ALSO HAD FEELINGS LIKE THE OTHERS AND THE RIGHT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES WITHOUT BEING DEPENDENT ON OTHERS FOR A LONG TIME, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ROLE OF SOCIETY WAS TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO, AFTER HAVING ACQUIRED THE SKILLS, SHOULD BE REGARDED AS LIKE THE OTHER GROUPS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO PRAISED NON-MUSLIMS WHO NOT ONLY TOOK PART IN BREAKING-OF-FAST RECEPTIONS WITH THEIR MUSLIM FRIENDS BUT ALSO PROVIDED SOME OF THE DISHES FOR THIS PURPOSE, AS HAD BEEN DONE BY A PRIVATE COMPANY RECENTLY. -- MORE

2243MST 10 05 88

0850

U E092 ENG

MAHATHIR-HANDICAPPED 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOPED THAT THIS +TREND+ WOULD CONTINUE, SAYING THAT IT WOULD FOSTER THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES THAT WAS REQUIRED BY A NATION MULTI-RACIAL AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS IN NATURE.

HE ALSO URGED THE NON-MUSLIMS TO JOIN THE MUSLIMS IN OTHER ACTIVITIES, LIKE PREPARING HARI RAYA CAKES FOR THE SECURITY FORCES SERVING AT THE BORDER AREAS.

THE FUNCTION WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 300 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 200 ORPHANS, HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND OLD FOLKS LIVING IN WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER MUSTAFFA MOHAMAD AND WELFARE SERVICES MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SYED ZAINAL ABIDIN JAMALULAIL. -- BERNAMA

2252MST 10 05 88