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MAHATHIR-SEMARAK
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BUKIT MERTAJAM, SEPT 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY POLICY HAS ENABLED THE NATION TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC RECESSION OF PAST YEARS.

NOT ONLY WAS THE DIFFICULT TIMES OF 1984-86 OVERCOME, BUT ALSO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE COUNTRY WAS AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

LAUNCHING THE PULAU PINANG STATE-LEVEL +LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE+ (SEMARAK) MOVEMENT AT AMPANGAN MENGGUANG HERE, HE SAID THE POLICY INCLUDED CUTTING DOWN ON SPENDING AND FOREIGN BORROWINGS.

HE SAID THERE WERE COUNTRIES WHICH IN FACING THE RECESSION BORROWED MONEY TO CONTINUE SPENDING AS IF THEY WERE STILL PROSPEROUS BUT MALAYSIA DID NOT DO SO AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN ALL ITS EXPENDITURE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ITS FINANCIAL SITUATION.

+WHATEVER ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE AND WAS NOT TO VICTIMISE THEM IN FACING THE DIFFICULT PERIOD,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1418MST 03 09 88

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MAHATHIR-SEMARAK 2 BUKIT MERTAJAM

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT THE POLICY HAD ACHIEVED SUCCESS AND THAT NOW THE UNEMPLOYED WERE BEGINNING TO GET JOBS AGAIN, TRADERS WERE GETTING CUSTOMERS AND MORE NEW SHOPS WERE BEING OPENED.

HE SAID THAT WHILE REHABILITATING THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO STRIVED TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE NATION AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE MUST ASSIST IN ALL THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY, HARMONY AND COOPERATION AMONG THE RACES SO THAT TENSION AND FEELINGS OF APPREHENSION COULD BE ERADICATED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO ERASE ANY FEELINGS OF JEALOUSY AND TO BE WARY OF GROUPS THAT TRIED TO PLANT FEELINGS OF ENVY AMONG THEM FOR SELF-INTERESTS.

TO FACE THE THREAT OF SUCH GROUPS, THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE SEMARAK MOVEMENT SO THAT THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE COULD CLOSE RANKS TO JOINTLY STRUGGLE TO DEVELOP THE NATION, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1431MST 03 09 88

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MAHATHIR-SEMARAK 3 BUKIT MERTAJAM

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE MOVEMENT, MANY BENEFITS HAD BEEN ENJOYED BY THE PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL TRADERS AND HAWKERS TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY FROM THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ATTENDING SEMARAK GATHERINGS.

REGARDING THE LEADERS, HE SAID THE MOVEMENT WAS NOT FOR THEM TO SHOW OFF THEIR POWERS BUT MERELY TO ENABLE THEM TO GET CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY COULD UNDERSTAND BETTER THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND HELP TO OVERCOME THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH A STRONGER LEADERS-PEOPLE RELATIONSHIP, THE NATION WOULD ACHIEVE EVEN MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEOPLE WOULD ENJOY BETTER LIVING STANDARDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT THE SEMARAK SPIRIT WHICH WAS BEING IGNITED AMONG THE THOSE GATHERED HERE TODAY, WHO HE ESTIMATED TO NUMBER BETWEEN 70,000 AND 80,000, WOULD NOT DIE OFF AFTER THE EVENT AND WOULD INSTEAD PREVAIL FOR ALL TIMES.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE MOVEMENT REMAINED HEALTHY AND WOULD DRAW UP POLICIES AND ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE UNFLINCHING DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT. -- MORE
1452MST 03 09 88

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MAHATHIR-SEMARAK 4 BUKIT MERTAJAM

IN CONJUNCTION WITH TODAY'S LAUNCHING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO OPENED TAMAN SEMARAK HERE AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BECOME A RECREATIONAL CENTRE WHICH WOULD HELP TO MAKE THE PEOPLE MORE HEALTHY AND FIT.

EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE ATTENDANCE BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT THE LAUNCHING SHOWED THAT THE LIES SPREAD ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE.

THE GATHERING WAS ALSO TO VOICE UNDIVIDED SUPPORT FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, HE ADDED.

PRESENT WERE THE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, FEDERAL MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS. -- BERNAMA
1453MST 03 09 88