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B E911 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PRIVATISATION R'R

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PORT KLANG, SEPT 4, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY WARNED ALL QUARTERS NOT TO ACT IN ANY WAY THAT COULD DISRUPT EFFORTS TO UPGRADE SERVICES AT THE PORT HERE.

HE SAID EFFORTS TO PRIVATISE THE OVERALL OPERATIONS OF THE PORT WERE AIMED AT MAKING ITS SERVICES MORE EFFICIENT AND AT PAR WITH THOSE OF OTHER PORTS IN THE WORLD.

IF THIS PLAN FAILED, ALL CONCERNED INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WORKERS WOULD STAND TO LOSE, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE PORT KLANG SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS HERE.

+DO NOT DO ANYTHING THAT COULD HAMPER EFFORTS AIMED AT MAKING OUR COUNTRY A DEVELOPED ONE BECAUSE ULTIMATELY WE OURSELVES WILL BE THE VICTIMS OF SUCH ACTIONS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHAT WAS REQUIRED OF ANY PORT WAS SPEEDIER CARGO HANDLING WITHOUT CUMBERSOME CARGO MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS.

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2109MST 04 09 88

0618

B E916 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PRIVATISATION 2 PORT KLANG R'R

+TODAY, A MAJORITY OF MALAYSIAN IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS STILL SHIP THEIR CARGO THROUGH FOREIGN PORTS,+ HE SAID.

THIS PRACTICE, HE SAID, WAS NOT DUE TO LACK OF FACILITIES AT LOCAL PORTS BUT BECAUSE OF INEFFICIENT CARGO HANDLING COMPARED TO PORTS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH LOCAL PORTS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EMPHASISE ON CONSOLIDATION OF PORT FACILITIES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY RATHER THAN BUILDING ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE KLANG AND PULAU PINANG PORTS HAD INTRODUCED NEW DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS TO MAKE FOR EASIER CARGO HANDLING TRANSACTIONS.

HE URGED OTHER PORTS STILL REVIEWING THEIR CURRENT TRADE DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES TO COME UP BETTER WITH SYSTEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -- MORE

2134MST 04 09 88

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0 0922 AAE

MAHATHIR-PRIVATISATION 3 PORT KLANG R/R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED ON PORT MANAGERMENTS IN THE COUNTRY TO BE MORE DYNAMIC, AGGRESSIVE AND INNOVATIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO CAPITALISE ON OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY BY ADOPTING THE LATEST PORT AND MARITIME TECHNOLOGIES.

HE SAID PORT MANAGEMENT SHOULD NOT JUST CONCENTRATE ON PORT ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS BUT SHOULD ALSO BE SENSITIVE TO MATTERS CONNECTED WITH TRANSPORTATION AS PORTS FORMED PART OF THE TRANSPORTATION CHAIN.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY THAT THE KLANG PORT AUTHORITY HAD SET UP A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTAINER TRANSPORT AND TO OVERCOME CONTAINER CONGESTION.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MONITORING THE CONTAINER CONGESTION AT PORT KLANG AND THE CABINET HAD RECENTLY AGREED TO ALLOW THE THREE CONTAINER TRANSPORT FIRMS TO OPERATE NATION-WIDE WITH THE HOPE OF INCREASING FACILITIES FOR CONTAINER TRAFFIC.

THE MALAYAN RAILWAY HAD ALSO BEEN PERMITTED TO ACT AS A GOODS DELIVERY AGENT THAT ALLOWED IT TO CONTACT USERS WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH CONTAINER FIRMS. -- MORE

2150MST 04 09 88

0629

0 0925 AAE

MAHATHIR-PRIVATISATION 4 PORT KLANG R/R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PORT MANAGERMENTS IN THE COUNTRY STEP UP EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND GATHER SKILLED MANPOWER FROM AMONG THE LOCALS IN PORT MANAGEMENT SO AS TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN EXPERTS WHO ARE NORMALLY HIGHLY PAID.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK THE SALUTE AT A MARCH-PAST BY 1,000 OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE KLANG PORT AUTHORITY, THE KLANG CONTAINER TERMINAL SON BHD (KCT) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DAN PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS AT THE PORT.

HE LATER BOARDED A CARGO VESSEL ANCHORED AT THE NORTH PORT'S WHARF 21 AND PULLED A GADGET THAT OPENED A HATCH ON ITS DECK TO RELEASE 1,000 BALLOONS MARKING THE LAUNCHING OF THE CELEBRATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO WITNESSED A SAIL-PAST BY A FLOTTILA OF MORE THAN 30 VESSELS INVOLVED IN DAILY PORT OPERATIONS COMPRISING TUG BOATS, BARGES, PILOT BOATS, AND FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE BOATS FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT. -- BERNAMA

2200MST 04 09 88