

0386

U E241 AAE

MAHATHIR

BM

88 P
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY EXISTING UNITY AMONG MALAYSIANS HAS ENABLED PEOPLE OF ALL RACES TO LIVE AND INTER-MINGLE IN HARMONY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT, SINCE THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE, HAD BEEN WORKING TOWARDS ENHANCING UNITY AMONG THE MULTI-RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

THE CURRENT LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT (SEMARAK) WAS PART OF EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE CONTINUED TO BE UNITED FOR THE INTEREST OF THE NATION'S PROGRESS.

+EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO CLAIM THAT THERE IS NO RACIAL UNITY, WE CONTINUE TO INTER-MINGLE IN HARMONY BECAUSE WE KNOW WE ARE SAFE IN THIS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR SEMARAK AT KAMPUNG BELENAM HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE EASILY INFLUENCED BY ALLEGATIONS THAT UNITY WAS IN BAD SHAPE AND URGED THEM TO TOTALLY REJECT THESE ALLEGATIONS. -- MORE

1512MST 20 11 88

0403

U E231 AAE

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID IT WAS TOTALLY UNTRUE IF THERE WERE ALLEGATIONS THAT MALAYSIA FAILED TO UNITE THE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RACES TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN SOME COUNTRIES, THERE WAS TENSION AMONG GROUPS RESULTING IN CIVIL WAR EVEN THOUGH ALL THE PEOPLE THERE WERE OF THE SAME RELIGION AND RACE.

+IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN WEST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA, FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS ENMITY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE SAME RACE. IN FACT, IN A CERTAIN PLACE THERE WAS RIOTS FOR ABOUT 400 YEARS,+ HE SAID.

THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING IF THERE WAS RACIAL TENSION IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID, ADDING THAT WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THE SITUATION WAS NOT THAT BAD FOR MALAYSIANS TO NOT EVEN INTER-MINGLE IN HARMONY.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO CHECK RACIALISM TO ENSURE CONTINUED HARMONY, HE SAID. -- MORE

1349MST 20 11 88

0413

U E234 AAE

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT A REPEAT OF THE MAY 13 INCIDENT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WISH TO SEE RACIAL ENMITY.

ON DEVELOPMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO THE QUICK PACE OF GROWTH OF KUALA LUMPUR, PARTICULARLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED IN SETTLING PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RACES IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES HERE.

+BUSINESSMEN IN KUALA LUMPUR ARE NO MORE OF THE SAME RACE BUT OF ALL RACES. IN FACT, THE FEDERAL CAPITAL'S POPULATION HAS INCREASED TO MORE THAN ONE MILLION,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES WHICH HAD LONG RECEIVED INDEPENDENCE HAD STILL NOT ACHIEVED A HIGH LEVEL OF GROWTH WITH PEOPLE THERE LIVING IN CONDITIONS WHICH WERE WORSE THAN WHEN THEY WERE UNDER COLONIAL RULE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ADMITTED THERE WERE SQUATTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND IN OTHER TOWNS BUT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY LIVED WERE NOT AS BAD AS THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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1602MST 20 11 88

0423

U E256 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF SQUATTERS:

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE IN KUALA LUMPUR SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE CLEANLINESS OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AS PART OF EFFORTS TO MAKE IT A GARDEN CITY.

+WE WANT TO STAY IN CLEAN AND MODERN SURROUNDINGS BUT THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IF THERE WAS NO TOTAL PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL TERRITORY SEMARAK ORGANISING COMMITTEE DR SULEIMAN MOHAMED SAID SEMARAK WAS VERY APPROPRIATE TO MAINTAIN RACIAL UNITY AND HARMONY, THE BASIS FOR POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY.

HE CAUTIONED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN ELEMENTS TRYING TO SPLIT THE PEOPLE FOR PERSONAL, POLITICAL REASONS, SAYING THE PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK THESE EFFORTS. -- MORE

1622NST 20 11 88

0424

U E257 AAE
MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAUNCHING, THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT KAMPUNG BELANAN HERE WOULD BE KNOWN AS KAMPUNG SEMARAK AND JALAN GURNEY AS JALAN SEMARAK.

HE ALSO OPENED A HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION, SURAU AND THE SEKOLAH ASANA AL-IKHLASIAH AT THE VILLAGE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASNAH ALI, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR, HEALTH MINISTER DATUK CHAN SIANG SUN, WORKS MINISTER DATUK S. SANKY VELLU, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK HAFSLAH OMAR AND DATUK BANDAR DATUK ELYAS OMAR. -- BERNAMA
1623NST 20 11 88