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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT

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PULAU PINANG, NOV 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO TURN TOURISM INTO A NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESOURCE HAS SHOWN SUCCESS.

HE SAID NOT ONLY HOTEL ROOM RATES HAD GONE DOWN A LITTLE BUT THERE WERE ALSO A WIDER RANGE OF TOURIST FACILITIES.

FROM THE ASPECT OF AIR ARRIVALS, MALAYSIA HAD BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS, THOUGH TWO OR THREE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WERE ALSO VERY AGGRESSIVE IN THIS INDUSTRY, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE SERAKAN'S 17TH NATIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE AT DEWAN TUNKU, KOMPLEKS TUN ABDUL RAZAK HERE.

ON THE +VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR 1990+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED EVERYONE INVOLVED IN TOURISM WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN DRAWING UP STRATEGIES TO BRING IN TOURISTS SO THAT THE TOURIST INDUSTRY COULD BECOME A MAJOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER.

+THOUGH THESE JOINT EFFORTS, HE HOPE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WILL EXPAND AT A RAPID PACE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO BREATHE COMFORTABLY THIS YEAR FOLLOWING THE RISE IN COMMODITY PRICES AND INCREASED EXPORTS FROM THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

HE SAID THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WAS EXPECTED TO RESISTER A 6.4 PER CENT GROWTH NEXT YEAR.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH CONTINUED COOPERATION AMONG THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, THE ECONOMY WOULD ACHIEVE EVEN BETTER GROWTH IN THE YEARS TO COME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED BN COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE IN REDUCING POVERTY AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES, RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY AND MAKE THE ECONOMY STRONGER FROM TIME TO TIME.

-- BERNAMA

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