

U 5319 AAE
MAHATHIR-BIRDS
BK

BUTTERWORTH, NOV 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MUHAMMAD SAID TODAY THAT A WILDLIFE AND BIRD PARK WILL BE SET UP ON PULAU SIMSA, ONE OF THE ISLETS OF PULAU LANGKANI IN TWO YEARS FROM NOW.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PARK WOULD HOUSE WILDLIFE AND BIRDS FOUND IN MALAYSIA AS WELL THOSE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE PROJECT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

DETAILS OF THE PROJECT WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE PULAU PINANG BIRD PARK AT SEBERANG JAYA HERE TODAY.

OPENING THE PARK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT REVIEW THE LAWS GOVERNING WILDLIFE TO PRESERVE SUCH ANIMALS.

HE SAID WILDLIFE SHOULD BE MADE EASILY VISIBLE TO HUMANS AND THEIR EXTINCTION SHOULD BE PREVENTED. -- MORE
1706MST 26 11 88

0259

U 5325 AAE
MAHATHIR-BIRDS 2 BUTTERWORTH

THE PRESENT LAWS SHOULD BE RELAXED SO THAT THE ANIMALS COULD BE FREED AND CAGED AS DOMESTICATED ANIMAL.

HE SAID WILD ANIMALS ONLY LIVED IN THE JUNGLE AND THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE PEOPLE TO SEE THEM AND THIS ALSO ENCOURAGED THEIR KILLING WHICH WAS WRONGS FROM THE ASPECT OF THE LAW.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN LINE WITH DEVELOPMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CHANGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION IF NOT FOR THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ON RECREATIONAL PARKS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED EFFORTS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HAVE SUCH FACILITIES AND IN PARTICULAR TOWN BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS.

WITH A BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT, COUPLED WITH A VARIETY OF PARKS, MALAYSIA WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS, HE SAID. -- MORE
1720MST 26 11 88

0260

U 5330 AAE
MAHATHIR-BIRDS 3 BUTTERWORTH

THE \$4 MILLION BIRD PARK, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MALAYSIA, IS LOCATED ON A TWO-HECTARE SITE.

ABOUT 300 TYPES OF BIRDS FROM EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, AUSTRALIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA CAN BE FOUND IN THE PARK.

VISITORS ARE CHARGED \$2 PER ADULT AND \$1 PER CHILD.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HANNAH SPENT ABOUT TWO HOURS AT THE PARK AND WERE SHOWN AROUND BY BIRD PARK DIRECTOR MICHAEL OOI.

HE ALSO PLANTED A Hibiscus PLANT AT THE PARK TO MARK HIS VISIT. THE PLANT WAS NAMED AFTER HIM. -- BERNAMA
1731MST 26 11 88