

U 6631 AAE

MAHATHIR

BN

(EMBARGO) FOR RELEASE AFTER 9.30PM TODAY, DEC 31)

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 31 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED THE PEOPLE TO PRESERVE UNITY, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION SO THAT MORE SUCCESSSES CAN BE ACHIEVED AND ENJOYED BY ALL IN THE INTEREST OF ASSURING A HAPPIER LIFE FOR MALAYSIANS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CHALLENGES OF THE PAST HAD BEEN SURMOUNTED AS A RESULT OF THE UNITY, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION PREVAILING IN THE PLURAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTRY.

+NEVERTHELESS, WE NEED TO REINFORCE OUR RESILIENCE FURTHER TO FACE NEW CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL SECURITY ARISING FROM THE SAME SOURCES AND CAUSES BUT IN A DIFFERENT FORM OR MANIFESTATION,+ HE SAID IN HIS 1989 NEW YEAR MESSAGE OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION MALAYSIA TONIGHT.

HE SAID TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY REMAINED PEACEFUL, ALL QUARTERS HAD TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE AND VIGILANT CONCERNING CERTAIN SENSITIVITIES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION LAID DOWN A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY BASED ON THE VALUES OF MODERATION, TOLERANCE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONGS THE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES, CULTURES, AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. -- MORE

1434HST 31 12 88

0736

U 6639 AAE

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASKED THE PEOPLE TO RESOLVE TO FACE 1989 WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, FULL CONFIDENCE AND INNER STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF SUCCESS.

+ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL PLAGUED BY VARIOUS PROBLEMS, THIS SHOULD NOT BE MADE AN EXCUSE FOR NOT WANTING TO COOPERATE AND FOSTER UNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

+IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH LIKE TO EXPLOIT THESE PROBLEMS TO CREATE UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY, BUT IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THEIR AIMS ARE NOT TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS BUT WORSEN THE SITUATION BY USING ISSUES TO SERVE THEIR NARROW INTERESTS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID NEARLY ALL SECTORS INCLUDING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SECURITY SECTORS IN 1988 HAD SEEN RECOVERY AND STABILITY.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAS BECOMING MORE STABLE AND SECURITY HAS MORE ASSURED, AND ALTHOUGH IT HAS TRUE UNDESIRABLE INCIDENTS STILL OCCURRED, THESE HAD NOT REACHED THE STAGE OF CAUSING ANARCHY IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

+THE PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY ARE ABATING AND THE IMPROVING SITUATION IN UMNO HAS GIVEN FRESH CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY AMONGS NOT JUST MALAYSIANS, BUT FOREIGN INVESTORS AS WELL,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1522HST 31 12 88

U 6641 AAE

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+IT MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE RECOVERY HAS YET TO BE FULLY ATTAINED, BUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND LOVE PEACE AND THE COUNTRY WILL MAKE SURE ALL PROBLEMS WILL EVENTUALLY BE OVERCOME.+

ON MALAYSIA HOSTING THE SEA GAMES AND COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) IN 1989, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT REPRESENTED THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COUNTRY TO ENHANCE ITS STANDING IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

HE IS CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL GROUPS, MALAYSIA WILL DISCHARGE ITS DUTIES AS HOST WITH EXCELLENCE, AND BECOME MORE WELDKNOWN AMONG A GREATER NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT WHILE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WAS RECOVERING, PRODUCTIVITY MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED BUT UPGRADED.

+SALARY INCREASES WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING RISE IN PRODUCTIVITY WILL ERODE OUR CAPABILITY TO COMPETE WITH THE PRODUCTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, WHETHER IN THE DOMESTIC OR THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. IF THIS HAPPENS, INDUSTRIAL EARNINGS WILL DECLINE.+

AS A RESULT, WORKERS' SALARIES WOULD BE AFFECTED AND UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD RISE, WHILE REDUCED NATIONAL REVENUE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE

1927HST 31 12 88

U 6643 AAE

MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO APPEALED TO ROAD USERS TO EXERCISE MORE CARE, POINTING OUT THAT MALAYSIA'S ROAD ACCIDENT RATE AND DEATH TOLL WERE TOO HIGH, CAUSED MOSTLY BY THE FAULT OF ROAD USERS THEMSELVES.

+LET US ALL RESOLVE TO DRIVE MORE CAREFULLY FROM 1989 ONWARDS, AND, WITH GOD'S WILL, OUR LIFE AND THAT OF OUR FAMILIES AS WELL AS OTHER ROAD USERS WILL BE SAFE.+ -- BERNAMA

1928HST 31 12 88