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MAHATHIR-MEDICAL R'R'R'
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PULAU PINANG, JAN 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IGNORES THE ADVICE THAT HE SEEKS MEDICAL TREATMENT OVERSEAS BUT INSTEAD WANTS TO BE TREATED BY MALAYSIAN SPECIALISTS, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED BAHMAT SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER HAD REPEATEDLY BEEN ADVISED TO SEEK TREATMENT FROM THE BEST SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE FROM LEADING MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS ABROAD, BUT HAD REFUSED TO DO SO +BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE+.

+ THE PRIME MINISTER ALWAYS INSISTS THAT HE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS,+ DATUK MOHAMED SAID OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO SUCCESSFULLY UNDERWENT A CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION AT THE KUALA LUMPUR GENERAL HOSPITAL ON TUESDAY. HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL AT 1AM ON JAN 18 AFTER COMPLAINING OF CHEST PAINS.

+DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR APPRECIATES THAT HIS HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE IMPORTANT AND UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY, HIGH TRUST IN LOCAL DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS, HE IGNORED THE ADVICE AND CHOSE TO BE TREATED LOCALLY,+ THE MINISTER SAID.

DATUK MOHAMED SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRUST PROVED JUSTIFIED AS HIS BY-PASS OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS AND HIS CONDITION WAS NOW STABLE, ADDING THAT HE NEEDED ONLY ANOTHER 10 DAYS' STAY AT THE HOSPITAL.--MORE

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+WE WISH HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO ENABLE HIM TO CONTINUE WITH HIS DUTIES TO THE PEOPLE AND NATION,+ DATUK MOHAMED SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTITUDE SHOWED HIS GENUINE LOVE FOR THE NATION, TRUST IN HIS SUPPORTERS AND THOSE WORKING WITH HIM.

+THIS IS INDEED A DIFFICULT ACT FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW,+ HE SAID.

DATUK MOHAMED DESCRIBED THE PRIME MINISTER AS A WORKAHOLIC WHO IS IN THE OFFICE BY 8AM AND ONLY GOES HOME AT DUSK, REFLECTING HIS INDEFATIGABLE EFFORT TO CREATE A PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

+THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NEVER ALLOWED THE QUESTION OF HIS HEALTH TO DETER HIM BECAUSE HE WANTS TO WORK HARD FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELLBEING. THIS IS THE EXAMPLE WHICH THE PEOPLE SHOULD EMULATE,+ HE SAID.--BERNAMA

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