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KUALA TERENGGANU, JAN 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S WILLINGNESS TO UNDERSO THE CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION AT THE KUALA LUMPUR GENERAL HOSPITAL ATTESTS TO HIS COMMITMENT TO PRACTISING THE +LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE+ CONCEPT, MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF MOOR SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACTION HAD ALSO SERVED TO STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE COMPETENCE OF LOCAL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AND DOCTORS.

OPENING THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE TERENGGANU MUSLIM WOMEN'S WELFARE BOARD HERE, HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S MOVE SHOULD BE EMULATED BY OTHER LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALL THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSO TREATMENT AND SURGERY OVERSEAS, HE SAID.

+IN FACT, A DAY BEFORE THE OPERATION WAS PERFORMED, THE AUTHORITIES HAD INFORMED HIM ALL PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO FLY HIM OVERSEAS FOR TREATMENT,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, TRUE TO HIS CHARACTER AS A LEADER WHO WANTED HIS ACTIONS TO BE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE, HE WILLINGLY AND WITHOUT MUCH QUESTION SIGNED THE CONSENT FORMS FOR THE OPERATION TO BE DONE BY LOCAL DOCTORS, HE SAID. -- MOOR

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HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION WAS A BRAVE AND MOMENTOUS ONE AS IT SHOWED LOCAL MEDICAL FACILITIES AND EXPERTISE WERE NOW COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS TO FLY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR OVERSEAS FOR TREATMENT AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO UNDERSO OPERATION LOCALLY CAME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PAUKA DR SITI HASMAH HERSELF. -- BERNAMA

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