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TRAGEDY-MAHATHXR
BM

ALOR SETAR, APRIL 29 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED THE TERENGGANU STATE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT GOLD MINING IN THE STATE IS CARRIED OUT IN A SAFER AND MORE MODERN MANNER.

HE SAID STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STOP INDIVIDUAL GOLD DIGGING ACTIVITIES WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THREE PEOPLE, AND AT LEAST NINE OTHERS FEARED KILLED, IN THE GOLD BELT OF BUKIT LUBUK MANDI LN RUSILA IN TERENGGANU YESTERDAY.

(EARLIER TODAY, TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD ANNOUNCED THAT GOLD PROSPECTORS IN BUKIT LUBUK MANDI ARE BANNED FROM DIGGING FOR THE METAL AND ALLOWED ONLY TO CARRY OUT PANNING ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THE BAN WAS EFFECTIVE TODAY).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A SAFER METHOD OF GOLD PROSPECTING SHOULD BE DEvised TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF YESTERDAY'S MISHAP.

EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. -- MORE

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TRAGEDY-MAHATHIR 2 ALOR SETAR

IN THEIR HASTE TO SEEK WEALTH, PEOPLE TEND TO DISREGARD SAFETY, HE TOLD REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL AT THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM AIRPORT AT KEPALA BATAS HERE FOR A BREAKING OF THE FAST FUNCTION AT THE MASJID AL AQLA IN JITRA.

HE HOPED THAT IN DEVISING MORE MODERN METHODS OF GOLD MINING, THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE RIGHTS OF LAND OWNERS AND THOSE ALREADY PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MORE LIVES WOULD BE LOST IF SAFER METHODS OF GOLD MINING WERE NOT INTRODUCED SOON.

ON BERJASA'S MOVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH PAS, DAP AND THE UMNO +SPLINTER+ GROUP, HE SAID BERJASA'S POSITION IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD BE DECIDED AT A BN MEETING EXPECTED TO BE HELD AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH AND EARLY JUNE. -- MORE

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TRAGEDY-MAHATHIR 3 ALOR SETAR

THIS IS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S FIRST VISIT HOME AFTER UNDERGOING A CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION IN KUALA LUMPUR IN JANUARY. HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO RETURN HOME TO MEET HIS CLOSE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

ABOUT 1,000 BN SUPPORTERS WERE ON HAND TO RECEIVE THE PRIME MINISTER ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT. ALSO PRESENT WAS KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF. -- BERNAMA

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