

R E439 AAE  
MAHATHIR-MESSAGE  
BM

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE ON HARI RAYA EVE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF HARI RAYA DATE)

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT EFFORTS TO KEEP THE PEACE, STABILISE THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND DEVELOP THE ECONOMY ARE FOR THE INTERESTS AND GOOD OF EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY.

MALAYSIANS WERE FORTUNATE AS POLITICAL STABILITY AND RACIAL UNITY CONTINUED TO BE PRESERVED IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID IN HIS HARI RAYP MESSAGE CARRIED BY RADIO-TELEVISION MALAYSIA TONIGHT.

+WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT WHENEVER THERE IS POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND THE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RACES DO NOT LIVE IN PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IN WHATEVER FIELD IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE,+ HE SAID, + RIOTS MAY OCCUR.\*

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY NOW WERE VERY ENCOURAGING. BESIDES POLITICAL STABILITY AND RACIAL HARMONY, THE NATION'S ECONOMY CONTINUED TO IMPROVE HE ADDED.

HE SAID LAST YEAR'S ECONOMIC GROWTH OF 8.1 PERCENT WAS THE HIGHEST ACHIEVED THIS DECADE. THE COUNTRY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENT SITUATION, EXPORTS AND THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO REMAIN STRONG. -- MORE

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR THIS YEAR WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGING HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR TO CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY WAS TO ENSURE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT, EITHER LOCAL OR FOREIGN, CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO FOCUSING ATTENTION TOWARDS THE TOURISM INDUSTRY AND HAD DECLARED NEXT YEAR AS +VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR+, HE SAID.

THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPENDED NOT ONLY ON THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD ENSURE THAT TOURISTS FELT WELCOME IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EVERYTHING THAT HAD OCCURRED TO THE NATION NOW WAS RELATED TO THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE. +WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE MAY 13 1969 TRAGEDY WHICH BROKE OUT IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

+THE SAME GOES FOR THE NATION'S ECONOMY,+ HE ADDED. WHEN THERE WAS AN ECONOMIC RECESSION MANY WERE UNEMPLOYED AND BECAME BANKRUPT.

ON THE OTHER HAND THE RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMY NOW BENEFITED THE PEOPLE WITH INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, RISING INCOMES AND FOR THE POOR, IT WAS MUCH EASIER TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE, HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS BY QUOTING THE FIGURES.

+WE MENTION OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AS IT IS CLOSELY RELATED WITH THE FORTUNE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

+WHILE WE CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY IN OVERCOMING OUR +TEMPTATIONS+ THROUGHOUT THE FASTING MONTH WE CAN ALSO CELEBRATE OUR SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING THE ECONOMIC RECESSION WHICH WE EXPERIENCED SEVERAL YEARS AGO,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE ALSO DID NOT FORGET THE SACRIFICES MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND STAFF IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS WHO HAD TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR DUTIES ON HARI RAYA DAY.

THE GOVERNMENT +CONGRATULATED+ AND THANKED THEM INCLUDING THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SERVING UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS TO PRESERVE THE PEACE IN NAMIBIA, IRAN AND IRAQ.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO WISHED SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI TO ALL MUSLIMS. TO THE NON-MUSLIMS HE CALLED ON THEM TO VISIT THEIR MUSLIM FRIENDS AS +HOPEFULLY THE GAP BETWEEN US WILL BE FURTHER NARROWED.+ -- BERNAMA

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