

D425

B E236 AAE
MAHATHIR-PLEDGE

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 7 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO ENJOY PEACE AND SECURITY FOR CHOOSING A SUITABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM BASED ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY; DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE SYSTEM HAD ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS RACES TO LIVE IN UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING.

+GUIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RUKUNEGARA, THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER HAND WERE RESPONSIBLE IN PERPETUATING RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER,+ HE SAID IN HIS CONGRATULATORY SPEECH AND LOYALTY PLEDGE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT AN AUDIENCE AND INVESTITURE CEREMONY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BIRTHDAY OF YANG DI PERTUAN AGONG SULTAN AZLAN SHAH AT ISTANA NEGARA HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MULTI-RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA WAS UNIQUE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD BECAUSE THEY COULD LIVE IN HARMONY ALTHOUGH OF DIFFERENT CREED, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE.

THE GOVERNMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS SYSTEM AND WOULD RESIST ANY ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY IT. -- MORE

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+ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL SO-CALLED CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TRYING TO INTERFERE IN THE NATION'S ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FIRM IN ITS STAND TO HOLD ON TO WHAT WE HAVE STRUGGLED FOR,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO USE THE MONARCHY, THE COURTS AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS AND FULFILL THEIR OWN SELF INTERESTS.

+HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THEIR HIGHNESSES THE RULERS WILL NEVER CONSENT TO SUCH ACTIONS AND WILL NOT BE EASILY MADE USE OF,+ HE ADDED.

+THE GOVERNMENT PLACED IMPORTANCE ON THE PEOPLE WHO NEED PROGRESS AND NOT THOSE WHO ARE SELFISH AND I BELIEVE WITH YOUR MAJESTY'S WISDOM IN RULING THE COUNTRY AND SYMBOL OF SOVEREIGNTY AND UNITY, THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS LIFE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS THANKFUL THAT THE ECONOMY WAS RECOVERING AND BECOMING STRONG EARLY THIS YEAR AFTER RECORDING AN ENCOURAGING GROWTH TWO YEARS AGO. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE GROWTH OF THE 1988 GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP) WHICH SHOWED AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE RATES ACHIEVED IN THE YEARS AFTER 1979.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO SEEN THROUGH THE COUNTRY'S SATISFACTORY BALANCE OF PAYMENT AND INCREASING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS SINCE TWO YEARS AGO.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GROWTH ACHIEVED SINCE THEN WOULD CONTINUE THIS YEAR AND THE YEARS AHEAD BASED ON THE SUCCESS OF PROGRAMMES PLANNED TO CONSOLIDATE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC STRUCTURE TO ENABLE IT TO BE BETTER ABLE TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ONE OF THE CHANGES PLANNED IN THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE WAS TO MAKE THE NATION'S ECONOMY LESS DEPENDENT ON EXPORT COMMODITIES AND INSTEAD TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND EXPORT OF ITS PRODUCTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED AS A NATION THAT COULD PROVIDE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL WELFARE ALTHOUGH IT WAS A SMALL NATION IN THE WORLD MAP. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD BEEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ILLICIT DRUGS, A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HOSTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AND THE SEA GAMES THIS YEAR.

IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRIME MINISTER, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, MADE A PLEDGE TO CONTINUE CONCENTRATING ON EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE THE PROSPERITY AND SECURITY OF THE NATION AND ITS PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA

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