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R E220 A A E
MAHATHIR-WORKERS

GRIK, JULY 6' (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT HISTORY WILL BE REPEATED IF FOREIGN WORKERS HAD TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY AND FINALLY ENDED UP BEING RICH, AROUSING THE ENVY OF THE LOCALS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +HISTORY MIGHT BE REPEATED WHEN THESE GROUPS BECOME RICH AND THE LOCALS HARBOUR FEELINGS OF ENVY TOWARDS THEM.+

HE SAID THAT ALL THIS COULD HAPPEN IF THE LOCALS WERE NOT WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SO MUCH SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO BRING IN FOREIGN WORKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PULAU BANDING NEAR HERE THAT THE RELUCTANCE OF THE LOCALS TO WORK IN THE PLANTATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TEA PLANTATIONS IN THE DISTRICT, WAS REGRETTABLE.

HE SAID THAT THE TEA PLANTATION NOW BEING WORKED ON IN STAGES BY THE PERAK STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAD TO ENGAGE 26 WORKERS FROM BANGLADESH. -- MORE

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HE SAID: +IT IS AMAZING THAT THE LOCALS ARE NOT INTERESTED TO WORK IN THE PLANTATION WHEN THE TASK OF PICKING TEA LEAVES DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY SKILLS THAT NEED TO BE-ACQUIRED FROM A TRAINING INSTITUTION.+

THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON MALAYSIAN TO BE PREPARED IN FACING CHALLENGES AND TO BE WILLING TO WORK HARD NOT ONLY FOR THEIR OWN SAKE BUT ALSO FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT TO THE DISTRICT IS THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF VISITS TO LOOK INTO THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA.

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