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U E478 ENG MES
HAHATHIR-RESPECT

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 11 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BEST WAY FOR THE COUNTRY TO EARN INTERNATIONAL RESPECT IS THROUGH THE SUCCESS OF MALAYSIANS.

IF THE PEOPLE ARE EFFICIENT IN ALL FIELDS, THEY WILL NOT BE LOOKED DOWN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A LUNCHEON AT THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO THE STATE TODAY.

ABOUT 300 PEOPLE INCLUDING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) LEADERS WERE PRESENT.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD HELP ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL STABILITY AS THIS WOULD ALSO EARN THE WORLD'S RESPECT APART FROM BEING BENEFICIAL TO EVERYONE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, SAID CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE COALITION HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT PARTICULARLY IN RESOLVING ISSUES.

--MORE

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HE ALSO SAID COMMONWEALTH LEADERS WHO WERE IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR THE SUMMIT RECENTLY, FOUND MALAYSIA TO BE A COUNTRY FAR FROM WHAT THEY HAD CONCEIVED.

+WE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT WE ARE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND SOME OF THE COMMONWEALTH LEADERS ARE ALSO FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

+THIS MEANS THAT WE ARE OF THE SAME STATUS BUT WHEN THEY TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS COUNTRY, THEY FOUND MALAYSIA TO BE MORE PROGRESSIVE.

+AS SUCH, THEY MUST BE THINKING I WAS LYING BECAUSE THEY REGARD MALAYSIA AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY AND NOT A DEVELOPING ONE, + HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID MALAYSIA WOULD STAND TO GAIN BY BEING FAMOUS AND PROMINENT.

AS FOR TOURISM IN MELAKA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE STATE'S HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS WOULD DRAW TOURISTS DURING THE VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR 1990. --BERNAMA

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