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MAHATHIR-RESOURCES
BM

LANGKAWI, DEC 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE RESIDENTS OF LANGKAWI TO STRIVE IN DERIVING BENEFITS FROM THE ABUNDANT RICH RESOURCES ENDOWED ON THE ISLAND.

HE REGARDED THE RESIDENTS OF LANGKAWI AS SITTING ON A +GOLD MINE+ BECAUSE OF THE ISLAND'S RICH RESOURCES LIKE MARBLES AND BEAUTIFUL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT COULD ATTRACT TOURISTS.

+IF WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO UTILISE THE RESOURCES ENDOWED BY GOD, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DERIVE BENEFITS FROM THEM,+ HE TOLD ABOUT 5,000 LANGKAWI RESIDENTS WHO HELD A CELEBRATION +IN APPRECIATION OF CHE DET (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR)+ AT THE LUBUK SEMILANG PICNIC SITE, ABOUT 15KM FROM KUAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WANTED THE RESIDENTS OF THE ISLAND TO STRIVE FOR MAXIMUM GAIN FROM THE RESOURCES TO UPLIFT THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING TO THAT OF A MORE AFFLUENT LEVEL.

HE SAID THAT ONLY IN THAT WAY COULD THE LANGKAWI RESIDENTS BE APPRECIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR ENDOWING THE RICH NATURAL RESOURCES. -- MORE
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HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO ACCORD DUTY-FREE PORT STATUS TO LANGKAWI HAD FURTHER ENHANCED THE ISLAND'S RICH RESOURCES AND NOW +LANGKAWI IS A SOURCE OF EXTREME WEALTH.+

+DECLARING LANGKAWI A DUTY-FREE PORT MEANS THAT WE GAIN UNLIMITED WEALTH,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO REMINDED THE LANGKAWI RESIDENTS NOT TO GIVE IN TO GREED AND NOT TO REGARD PEOPLE FROM OTHER PLACES AS OUTSIDERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIANS OUTSIDE LANGKAWI ALSO HAD THE SAME RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THE DUTY-FREE STATUS ACCORDED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLAND.

ON VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR 1990, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE EXPECTED MORE VISITORS TO THE ISLAND AND WANTED ALL LEVELS OF THE COMMUNITY THERE TO TREAT THEM WITH CORDIALITY. -- MORE
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HE ALSO ADVISED THE RESIDENTS TO REFRAIN FROM DERIVING SHORT-TERM GAIN BY RESORTING TO SELLING THEIR LAND. THEY COULD AT LEAST PARTICIPATE IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY BY HOLDING SHARES IN THE HOTEL DEVELOPED ON THEIR LAND.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VILLAGERS ON THE ISLAND PREPARED TO CONVERT PART OF THE HOUSES INTO A TOURIST LODGE TO BE OPERATED ON A SMALL SCALE.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WAS ESCORTED BY 500 MOTORCYCLISTS FROM THE LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO THE PICNIC SITE.

HE THEN PROCEEDED ON A SPECIALLY-BUILT VEHICLE IN A PROCESSION LED BY SEVEN GIRLS BEARING THE BUNGA RAMPAI, SEVEN GIRLS BEARING THE SIRIH JUNJUNG, SEVEN GIRLS BEARING THE PULUT KUNING AND SEVEN GIRLS BEARING THE BUNGA TELUR, ACCOMPANIED BY 50 GIRLS BEARING THE BUNGA MANGGAR.

THE VEHICLE WHICH ALSO CARRIED DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID AND HIS WIFE WAS DRAWN BY 30 SILAT EXPONENTS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WAS STATE EXCO DATUK PADUKA ABDULLAH ISMAIL WHO REPRESENTED THE MENTERI BESAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD LUNCH THERE AND LATER VISITED MAHSURI'S GRAVE.

-- BERNAMA
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