

D305

R E703 ENG  
MAHATHIR-BACKWARD  
BM

LANGKAWI, DEC 28 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRESENT RAPID PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY LANGKAWI HAS REMINDED PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD OF THE STATE OF BACKWARDNESS THE ISLAND WAS IN ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO.

SPEAKING AT A FUNCTION ORGANISED BY THE RESIDENTS OF LANGKAWI TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE TO HIM IN BRINGING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT TO THE ISLAND, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN HE FIRST SET FOOT ON LANGKAWI IN 1950, THE ISLAND WAS UNDEVELOPED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS THEN A MEDICAL STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA IN SINGAPORE.

HE LATER SERVED AS A MEDICAL OFFICER FOR SIX MONTHS AT THE LANGKAWI DISTRICT HOSPITAL ON COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES IN 1956.

+AT THAT TIME, TO GO TO PADANG MAT SIRAT, I HAD TO CYCLE BECAUSE AT THAT TIME THERE WERE NOT MANY VEHICLES LIKE NOW,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-BACKWARD 2 LANGKAWI

HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING VARIOUS MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, LANGKAWI WAS NOW MORE DEVELOPED AND ITS RESIDENTS HAD GROWN FROM 16,000 IN THE 1950'S TO 40,000 AT PRESENT.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO SUPPORT THE LEADER BUT AT THE SAME TIME HARBOURED SUSPICION ON THE LEADER'S CAPABILITY.

HE SAID THAT IN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN, ANY DECISION MADE BY THE LEADER WAS EXPLAINED TO HIS SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND WAS FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICER RIGHT DOWN TO THE LOWER LEVEL.

HE SAID THAT IF SUSPICION EXISTED AMONG THE GOVERNMENT OFFICER AND THE LEADERS, ALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES PLANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

HE SAID THAT IF THE DECISION OR POLICY TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE LEADER WAS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE OFFICER, GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE, LEADERS LIKE THE MINISTERS HAD TO MAKE TIME TO GO OUT TO EXPLAIN IT TO THE PEOPLE SO THAT IT WAS FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-BACKWARD 3 LANGKAWI

DATUK SERI SANUSI, WHO IS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JERLUN/LANGKAWI, SAID THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS FACED SHOULD NOT POSE A HINDRANCE TO THE UNITY OF THE LANGKAWI RESIDENTS.

+ELEMENTS TRYING TO INSTIGATE THE PEOPLE IN LANGKAWI FROM TIME TO TIME TO HATE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DESTROYED,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, TWO LANGKAWI RESIDENTS, ENCIK P.SELVAMUNI AND ENCIK TAN HOCK ENG, REPRESENTING THE INDIAN AND CHINESE COMMUNITY IN LANGKAWI, IN THEIR SPEECHES THANKED THE PRIME MINISTER AND PLEDGED THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE GOVERNMENT. -- BERNAMA  
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