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MAHATHIR-MINISTERS
(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 P.M. TODAY, DEC 28)

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 28 (BERNAMA) -- AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET RECEIVE A PAT ON THE BACK FROM THEIR BOSS-- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

+I WOULD SAY THEY HAVE PERFORMED WELL,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHEN ASKED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SENIOR LOCAL EDITORS WHETHER HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS MINISTERS.

HE SAID THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAD THOUGHT THAT BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE LEFT THE CABINET, THOSE WHO TOOK OVER WOULD BE NEW AND THUS INCAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THEIR WORK.

+BUT LOOK AT THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS COUNTRY. EVERY MINISTER, WHETHER AS A CABINET MEMBER OR ON HIS OWN, HAS DONE I THINK REMARKABLY WELL,+ HE SAID.

+YOU CAN SEE LOTS OF NEW IDEAS BEING THROWN UP BY EVERYBODY. LOTS OF NEW IDEAS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND TO THEIR WORK. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE THIS SENSE OF JOINT RESPONSIBILITY.+ -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PRAISED THE STATE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HE SAID WERE MUCH MORE VIGOROUS NOW.

THE STATE GOVERNMENTS, HE SAID, WERE PROMOTING TOURISM, INVESTMENT AND WERE EVEN KEEN ON MAINTAINING CLEANLINESS AND MAKING TOWNS MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE.

+OF COURSE NOT ALL HAVE SUCCEEDED AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO (BUT) CERTAINLY THERE IS THAT KEENNESS. SO, I THINK WE'VE HAD A GOOD TEAM BOTH AT FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL.

+WE HAVE VERY CLOSE RAPPORT. WE MEET VERY OFTEN,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- BERNAMA

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