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EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 11.30PM TONIGHT

MAHATHIR-SQUARE

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 31 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ALL MALAYSIANS TO RESOLVE TO OBSERVE GOOD VALUES SO ENABLE THE COUNTRY ATTAINS BETTER SUCCESS IN 1990 AND THE 90S.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, HAD GREATER POTENTIAL THAN OTHER COUNTRIES TO ATTAIN HIGHER STANDARD OF DEVELOPMENT.

+THE PROGRESS OF A RACE DEPENDS GREATLY ON THE VALUES IT ADOPTED, ESPECIALLY ITS WORK CULTURE,+ HE SAID WHEN SIMULTANEOUSLY OPENING THE MERDEKA SQUARE AND LAUNCHING THE VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR 1990 HERE.

+WE ALL KNOW THE GOOD VALUES FOR US BUT BETWEEN THIS UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE THERE IS A WIDE GAP. IF WE REDUCE THIS GAP, WE WILL BE HAPPY,+ HE ADDED.

TO THE ENTREPRENEURS, HE URGED THEM TO BE DARING IN VENTURING INTO NEW MARKETS AND NOT TO BE TOO DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THEM OR ON TRADERS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. -- MORE.
2044MST 31 12 89

D986

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MAHATHIR-SQUARE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID TRADERS MUST BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS UNDER THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIALISATION PROCESS.

WHILE URGING THE EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BUT INSTEAD UNITE FOR COMMON GOOD, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID:

+DON'T LET OURSELVES BE USED AS TOOL BY THOSE WHO ONCE COLONISED US AND ARE NOW COMPETING WITH US. MENTAL COLONIALISM THROUGH FOREIGN IDEOLOGY MUST BE ELIMINATED.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOUGH MANY SUCCESSES WERE ACHIEVED IN 1989, THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY AS THERE WERE A LOT OF WORKS AND ACTIONS TO BE DONE TO BRING FURTHER PROGRESS TO MALAYSIA.

+BEGINNING FROM NOW, KUALA LUMPUR WILL BE CALLED THE GARDEN CITY OF LIGHTS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE.
2047MST 31 12 89

D989

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MAHATHIR-SQUARE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE THREAT TO NATIONAL STABILITY THROUGH DISUNITY HAD BEEN OVERCOME AND THERE WAS NOW POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

+THERE IS NO MORE TENSION AS IN THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER IN 1987,+ HE SAID, REFERRING TO THE SITUATION THEN WHICH LED THE GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH THE +OPERASI LALANG+ WHERE 106 PEOPLE WERE DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ACT (ISA).

INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY HAD ALSO INCREASED, GIVING MANY BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE, REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT AND BRISK BUSINESS TO TRADERS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO SAVED EXPENDITURES THROUGH EFFICIENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PRIVATISATION.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CLIMATE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING REJECTION OF NARROW AND ANTI-RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGIES BY SEVERAL COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WILLINGNESS OF THE SUPERPOWERS TO REDUCE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR.

HE SAID THE END OF COMMUNIST ARMED STRUGGLE TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PAST 41 YEARS WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE 1989 AS A HISTORIC YEAR.

+WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHICH LED TO THIS VICTORY,+ HE SAID, REFERRING TO LAYING-DOWN OF ARMS BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM). -- MORE.
2053MST 31 12 89

D991

U E994 AAE
MAHATHIR-SQUARE 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+NEVERTHELESS, WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT BECAUSE, IN THIS WORLD, MIGHT IS STILL RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO WANTED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO SHOW THAT ISLAM IS A JUST AND TOLERANT RELIGION BRINGING SUCCESS TO ITS FOLLOWERS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE RESPECTED BY OTHERS.

TO NON-MUSLIMS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO THEMSELVES AS WELL AS FOLLOWERS OF OTHER FAITHS, INCLUDING MUSLIMS.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN MALAYSIA WAS FAR BETTER THAN THAT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHERE ONE DID NOT SEE VARIOUS HOUSES OF WORSHIP AS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED SADNESS OVER SEVERAL TRAGEDIES IN 1989 WHICH CLAIMED MANY LIVES, INCLUDING CRASHES INVOLVING AIRCRAFT OF THE POLICE AND ROYAL MALAYSIA AIR FORCE (RMAF) AND A HOSTEL FIRE AT A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IN KEDAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO WISHED HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MALAYSIANS.-- BERNAMA.
2057MST 31 12 89