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MAHATHIR-POLICE
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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 23 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO HAVE A SPECIAL DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE SERVICES OF THE POLICE TO THE NATION AND PEOPLE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN EX-POLICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HERE, HE SAID THE ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE, WHICH HAD DONE A LOT FOR THE NATION, DID NOT HAVE A SPECIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE SACRAFICES MADE BY ITS MEMBERS.

IN HIS SPEECH, HE PRAISED THE POLICE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN LOOKING AFTER PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN FIGHTING THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY.

+THE POLICE HAVE PLAYED THEIR ROLE IN CURBING THE COMMUNIST ARMED INSURGENCY SO WELL THAT IT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE POLICE HAD SHOULDERED THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF GUARDING THE NATION TOGETHER WITH THE ARMED FORCES SINCE THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION IN 1948. -- MORE
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THE PEOPLE COULD NOT FULLY REPAY THE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE POLICE FORCE MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS HAD DIED, BEEN INJURED OR HAD TO RETIRE BECAUSE OF DISABILITY SUFFERED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTY, HE ADDED.

+WE CANNOT REALLY REPAY THEM -- THE COUNTRY FEELS INDEBTED TO THE POLICE. THEY ONLY RECEIVE THE COUNTRY'S APPRECIATION IN THE FORM OF AWARDS AND COMPENSATION,+ HE SAID.

AT THE FUNCTION, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PRESENTED A \$100,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS WELFARE WORK. HE ALSO RECEIVED HEQUES FROM SEVERAL COMPANIES ON THE ASSOCIATION'S BEHALF.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO PRESENTED APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION TO SEVERAL SERVING AND RETIRED OFFICERS FOR THEIR SERVICES.

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS WAS INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR. -- BERNAMA
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