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ALOR SETAR, APRIL 3<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THAILAND TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF THE SUDDEN DEATHS OF TWO THAI WORKERS IN MALAYSIA RECENTLY.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO IT AND WILL GIVE FULL CO-OPERATION TO THAILAND,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT HERE BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR.

HE SAID MALAYSIAN DOCTORS WERE ALSO PREPARED TO HELP THEIR THAI COUNTERPARTS IN DETECTING THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

+IF WE KNOW THE CAUSE OF DEATH, WE WILL TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WHO RETURNED HERE YESTERDAY FOR A BREAKING OF FAST AT MASJID KAMPUNG PUTAT IN KUBANG DISTRICT LAST NIGHT.

A SPECIAL TEAM SET UP BY THE THAI PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER TO LOOK INTO THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF THAI WORKERS OVERSEAS, WAS IN KEDAH LAST SUNDAY AND YESTERDAY TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS OF THE TWO THAI WORKERS REPORTED IN PADANG TERAP DISTRICT IN FEBRUARY. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE LEARNT OF THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS THROUGH NEWS REPORTS.

HE DESCRIBED THE DEATHS AS VERY STRANGE BECAUSE THE VICTIMS WERE ALL YOUNG AND SAID TO BE HEALTHY.

HE SAID HE HAD ALSO HEARD OF SIMILAR DEATHS INVOLVING FILIPINOS OVERSEAS.

KEDAH MENTERI BESAR KEDAH DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORT FROM THAI WORKERS OF MISTREATMENT BY MALAYSIAN EMPLOYERS.

+IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY REPORT I ASSUME THAT THEIR SITUATION IS ALL RIGHT. IF THEY HAVE BEEN BADLY TREATED WE HAVE STANDARD LABOUR LAWS. ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

THAI PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY SECRETARY ONG-ARD KLAMPAIBOON, WHO WAS HERE TO LOOK INTO THE CONDITIONS OF THAI WORKERS IN PADANG TERAP YESTERDAY SAID THE KONGSI HOUSES HERE WHERE THE THAI WORKERS LIVED WERE BETTER THAN THE ACCOMMODATION OF THEIR FELLOW WORKERS IN SINGAPORE. -- BERNAMA

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