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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT  
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KOTA BAHARU, JUNE 28<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALWAYS ASPIRES TO HELP DEVELOP KELANTAN WHICH LAGS BEHIND OTHER STATES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, FEDERAL EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION HAD BEEN ALWAYS THWARTED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WERE SEEKING TO FURTHER THEIR OWN INTEREST, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY OTHER MOTIVE OTHER THAN TO HELP THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS, WHO WERE MOSTLY POOR, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING A FRUIT CULTIVATION PROJECT ON REHABILITATED IDLE LAND IN KAMPUNG BANGGOL CHE WAN, MERANTI, PASIR MAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMED YAAKOB EACH PLANTED A DURIAN TREE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE FORM OF AGRICULTURE SUBSIDIES, FRUIT TREES AND CATTLE WHILE INDIRECT ASSISTANCE INCLUDED THE BUILDING OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND MOSQUES. -- MORE  
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HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF DIFFERING POLITICAL STANDS AND DISUNITY IN SOCIETY, SUCH AID SOMETIMES DID NOT REACH THE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN KAMPUNGS WOULD NOT BRING ANY BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD OBTAIN REVENUE FROM RICH STATES, SUCH AS TERENGGANU, JOHOR OR SELANGOR TO HELP KELANTAN BUT SUCH AID WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BE EFFECTED IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OF THE SAME FEATHER AS THE STATE GOVERNMENT. +

HE ADVISED KAMPUNG RESIDENTS TO MAINTAIN HARMONY DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENT POLITICAL LEANINGS. -- MORE  
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EARLIER, ADDRESSING THE RESIDENTS OF KAMPUNG HUTAN PASIR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO THE FOOD PROCESSING WORKSHOP THERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO WIDELY PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS, INCLUDING HANDICRAFT, BOTH IN THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MARKETS.

THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT SALE OF HANDICRAFT WOULD ENHANCE THE INCOME OF THE PEOPLE AND HELP ERADICATE POVERTY, HE ADDED.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE CASE OF KELANTAN WHOSE PEOPLE WERE WELL KNOWN IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS AND WOODCARVING, HE SAID.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS BY THEMSELVES WERE INADEQUATE WITHOUT CLOSE CO-OPERATION FROM THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA  
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