

0614

U E600 AAE
MAHATHIR-HEALTH R'R'R'
BM

KULIM, JULY 14, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE PROVIDING FREE HEALTH SERVICE DESPITE ESCALATING COSTS FOR TREATMENT AND MEDICINES. THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY, HE SAID WHEN OFFICIATING AT A SITE-CLEARANCE CEREMONY FOR THE NEW KULIM DISTRICT HOSPITAL HERE TODAY.

HE SAID FOR EXAMPLE, GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS CHARGED ONLY A \$500 FEE FOR A HEART OPERATION COMPARED TO \$20,000 TO \$30,000 BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

EVEN IF SOME PEOPLE HAVE TO PAY FOR HEALTH SERVICES AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, THE FEES WERE MUCH LOWER THAN THOSE IMPOSED BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS, HE SAID.

THE NEW KULIM HOSPITAL IS AMONG 11 DISTRICT HOSPITALS TO BE BUILT NATIONWIDE UNDER A NUCLEUS CONCEPT TO BE FUNDED BY A \$83.25-MILLION BRITISH AID GRANT.-- MORE
1312MST 14 07 90

D622

U E602 AAE
MAHATHIR-HEALTH 2 KULIM R'R'R'

THE \$90-MILLION HOSPITAL WILL BE BUILT IN TWO PHASES -- PHASE ONE TO ACCOMMODATE 314 BEDS AND PHASE TWO, 500 BEDS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT SET ASIDE \$2.7 BILLION TO BUILD MORE HOSPITALS AND TREATMENT CENTRES TO UPGRADE THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH STANDARDS.

THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN ENJOYING FREE TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AS THEY WERE SUBSIDISED WHEREAS HEALTH SERVICES IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE NOT FREE, HE SAID.

THEY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN BY ALLEGATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOTHING FOR THE PEOPLE WHEREAS IN REALITY THEY ENJOYED VARIOUS FACILITIES PROVIDED FREE.

IN HIS SPEECH, HEALTH MINISTER NG CHEANG KIAT SAID THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH STANDARDS HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY AND MALAYSIA'S HEALTH SERVICE IS THE BEST AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS.-- MORE
1357MST 14 07 90

D623

U E603 AAE
MAHATHIR-HEALTH 3 KULIM R'R'R'

WITHIN THREE DECADES, ITS HEALTH SERVICE HAD MADE TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENTS BY MAKING MALAYSIA FREE OF TUBERCULOSIS, MEASLES, POLIO, WHOOPING COUGH AND SMALL POX.

DURING THE PERIOD TOO, 484 HEALTH CENTRES AND 1,953 RURAL HEALTH CLINICS WERE BUILT WHICH IS PROOF OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE, HE SAID.

UNDER THE SIXTH MALAYSIA PLAN, THE MINISTRY WILL BUILD 17 DISTRICT HOSPITALS, 20 HEALTH CENTRES AND 78 RURAL CLINICS NATIONWIDE.-- BERNAMA
1400MST 14 07 90