

D270

R E975 AAE
MAHATHIR-RESORT

BM

GENTING HIGHLANDS, AUG 11 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A ROAD LINKING SEVERAL HIGHLANDS INCLUDING THE EXISTING HILL RESORTS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE ROAD PROJECT, TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AFTER THE AREAS WITH TOURIST RESORT POTENTIAL HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, HE SAID AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GENTING GROUP AT GENTING HOTEL HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS AT A STUDY LEVEL AND IF FOUND ECONOMICAL, THE PROJECT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

HE SAID THE PROJECT HAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PRIVATISATION SCHEME AS THE GOVERNMENT STILL NEEDED A LOT OF FUNDS TO UNDERTAKE OTHER PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS.

FUNDS WERE ALSO NEEDED FOR THE PROVISION OF MORE IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEPRESSED AREAS.

+ THE PRIVATISATION OF THE MOUNTAIN ROAD PROJECT WILL HELP BOOST PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INCENTIVES WILL BE GIVEN TO COMPANIES UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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D282

R E982 AAE
MAHATHIR-RESORT 2 GENTING HIGHLANDS

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HILL RESORTS LIKE THE GENTING HIGHLANDS HAD BECOME VERY POPULAR TO FOREIGN AS WELL AS LOCAL TOURISTS.

AS SUCH, THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A ROAD LINKING THE THE VARIOUS RESORTS TO ENABLE THEM TO PROGRESS EVEN FURTHER.

SUCH A ROAD, HE SAID, WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE MALAYSIANS TO VISIT HILL RESORTS AND THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO PROMOTE LOCAL TOURISM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ROAD PROJECT WOULD ALSO ENABLE SUITABLE MOUNTAIN AREAS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR FARMING ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD NOT CAUSE POLLUTION.

AT THE CEREMONY, THE GENTING HIGHLANDS GROUP CHAIRMAN, TAN SRI LIM GOH TONG, PRESENTED \$320,000 TO NINE VOLUNTARY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.

AMONG THEM WAS THE MINISTERS' AND DEPUTY MINISTERS' WIVES WELFARE ORGANISATION (BAKTI) WHICH RECEIVED \$200,000. THE MONEY WAS RECEIVED BY BAKTI CHAIRMAN, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI. -- BERNAMA

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