

MAHATHIR-OIL R'R'R'
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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 13 (BERNAMA) -- PETRONAS WILL INCREASE ITS DAILY OIL PRODUCTION BY ANOTHER 10,000 BARRELS TO MEET THE DEMAND OF COUNTRIES DEPENDENT ON IRAQI AND KUWAITI CRUDE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

TODAY'S CABINET MEETING DECIDED THAT HALF OF THE DAILY ADDITIONAL VOLUME WOULD BE FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES AND THE OTHER 5,000 BARRELS TO NON-OIL PRODUCING NATIONS, HE SAID.

THE INCREASED PRODUCTION WAS TO MEET REQUESTS FROM THESE COUNTRIES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ENTERTAINING A GROUP OF VISITING PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE.

MALAYSIA CURRENTLY PRODUCED 595,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE DAILY.

YESTERDAY, PETRONAS DECIDED AT ITS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND SUBMITTED THIS DECISION FOR DISCUSSION BY THE CABINET TODAY.

ASKED WHETHER PETROL PRICE WOULD BE RAISED BECAUSE OF THE GULF CRISIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A PRICE-HIKE IS INEVITABLE AS CHEAPER MALAYSIAN PETROL COULD ENCOURAGE IT TO BE SMUGGLED ABROAD.--

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS NON-COMMITTAL WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE CURRENT PETROL PRICE WOULD BE INCREASED FURTHER.

HE SAID SO FAR THERE WAS NO DECISION ON IT YET.

THIS WOULD DEPEND ON PREVAILING SITUATION AS PETROL PRICES WERE DETERMINED BY MARKET FACTORS, OTHERWISE THE COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE BURDEN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED MUSLIMS INTENDING TO PERFORM THE UMRAH THIS YEAR TO DEFER THEIR TRIP IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GULF ALTHOUGH THE ONGOING CRISIS HAD NOT SPREAD TO SAUDI ARABIA.

+WE CANNOT STOP THEM FROM PERFORMING THE UMRAH BUT WE CAN ONLY ADVISE THEM TO POSTPONE THE TRIP EVEN THOUGH THE ZONE OF CONFLICT IS FAR FROM SAUDI ARABIA,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID WISMA PUTRA OFFICIALS IN SAUDI ARABIA WERE CONSTANTLY REPORTING BACK THE SITUATION THERE AND PRESENTLY THERE WAS NOTHING ALARMING BUT MALAYSIANS WERE ADVISED TO DEFER GOING FOR THE UMRAH.--
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MAHATHIR-OIL 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

ASKED ABOUT THE 140 MALAYSIANS STRANDED IN KUWAIT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A MALAYSIA AIRLINES AIRCRAFT WOULD BRING THEM BACK ONCE THEY HAVE ASSEMBLED IN AMMAN, JORDAN.

HE SAID THEY WOULD BE BROUGHT HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO DEADLINE HAD BEEN SET FOR THEIR RETURN.

ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY'S CABINET MEETING HAD ENDORSED THE NAMES OF ITS MEMBERS AND GIVEN THE LIST BACK TO EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES, HE SAID.-- BERNAMA

2024MST 13 08 90