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MAHATHIR-PERLIS
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KANGAR, AUG 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PERLIS FOR THE STATE'S SUCCESS IN ACCUMULATING RESERVES TOTALLING \$120 MILLION.

HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT LED BY DR ABDUL HAMID PAWANTEH WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES VOTED BY THE PEOPLE.

ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF ABOUT 2,000 GOVERNMENT STAFF AT STADIUM DATUK SHEIKH AHMAD HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO PERLIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIA, WITH A PER CAPITA INCOME OF US\$2,000 (M\$5,400), ENJOYED FIFTH POSITION AMONG 130 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION TO BRING ABOUT MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BARISAN NASIONAL, WITH ITS MORE THAN 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN RULING THE COUNTRY, SHOULD BE GIVEN THE MANDATE TO CONTINUE ITS RULE TO PROVIDE A MUCH BETTER LIFE TO ALL THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATISATION POLICY, WAS NOT ONLY AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF SERVICES BUT ALSO TO EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT.

PREVIOUSLY, THE GOVERNMENT INCURRED EXPENDITURE FOR AGENCIES LIKE THE PORT KLANG AUTHORITY AND THE TELECOMS DEPARTMENT, WHICH NOW REAPED HUGE PROFITS AFTER PRIVATISATION.

DR. ABDUL HAMID SAID THE STATE'S SUCCESS IN ACCUMULATING THE \$120 MILLION RESERVE -- A HISTORIC SUCCESS -- WOULD ENABLE IT TO PAY OFF ITS FEDERAL LOANS OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

HE ATTRIBUTED THE STATE'S SUCCESS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, MCA PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, MIC PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU, GERAKAN PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK, INFORMATION MINISTER, DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT AND SARAWAK HOUSING MINISTER, DATUK CELESTINE UJANG. -- BERNAMA
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