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U E595 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ASLI

BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH, SEPT 6<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA IS MORE CIVILISED AND HUMAN THAN SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN LOOKING AFTER THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY'S NATIVE COMMUNITY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID HERE TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FATE OF THE NATIVE COMMUNITY IN SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WAS WORSE BECAUSE ITS LANDS WERE SEIZED WITHOUT COMPENSATION BEING PAID AND IN SOME CASES THE NATIVES WERE ANNIHILATED.

AS EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE CASE OF THE MOHAWKS IN CANADA WHOSE LAND WAS TAKEN AWAY TO BUILD A GOLF COURSE WITH NO COMPENSATION AND TROOPS AND ARMoured CARS WERE DEPLOYED TO CRUSH THEIR PROTEST.

+THIS SITUATION IS OCCURRING IN A COUNTRY THAT DEVELOPED AND MODERN AND IT IS COUNTRIES LIKE THIS THAT CONDEMN MALAYSIA FOR PURPORTEDLY ILLTREATING THE PENANS IN SARAWAK,+ HE TOLD A GATHERING OF ORANG ASLI FROM THROUGHOUT THE PENINSULA AT KEDAIK, ABOUT 20 KM FROM HERE.

HE SAID THE PENANS WERE GIVEN GOOD TREATMENT ALTHOUGH THEY OPPOSED LOGGING BY SETTING UP BLOCKADES. -- MORE  
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+WE DID NOT SEND TROOPS AND ARMoured CARS... INSTEAD WE PERSUADE THEM AND GIVE THEM ASSISTANCE SO THEY DO NOT BUILD BLOCKADES,+ HE ADDED.

POSING THE QUESTION WHO WAS MORE CIVILISED AND HUMAN, HE SAID:+WE POSSESS A CIVILISATION THAT IS OLDER THAN THEIRS AND WE DON'T DO SUCH THINGS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CITED THE EXAMPLE OF THE ABORIGINES OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA, WHO WERE KILLED AND THOSE REMAINING WERE ALSO JAILED AND GIVEN ALCOHOL TO PREVENT THEM FROM DEVELOPING.

+THE TRUTH IS, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ARE CRUEL TO THEIR NATIVE COMMUNITY. ALL THE ABORIGINES ARE KILLED SO THAT THEY WILL NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE COLONISERS,+ HE SAID.

IN CONTRAST, THE ORANG ASLI POPULATION IN MALAYSIA IS INCREASING AND THEY NOW NUMBER 72,000. -- MORE  
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HE REGRETTED THAT THERE ARE LOCAL PEOPLE WHO CO-OPERATED WITH FOREIGNERS TO CONDEMN MALAYSIA BUT BECAME +DUMB+ WHEN THE FOREIGNERS SUPPRESSED THEIR OWN NATIVE COMMUNITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE IN ALLOWANCE FOR ABOUT 690 ORANG ASLI CHIEFS (BATINS) THROUGHOUT THE PENINSULA FROM \$600 TO \$900 A YEAR.

HE SAID +BATINS+ WHO WERE RECEIVING \$80 A YEAR WOULD NOW GET \$900 FOR THOSE IN CATEGORI A, \$750 (CATEGORY B) AND \$600 (CATEGORY C AND BELOW).

THE RATE OF THE NEW ALLOWANCES REFLECTED THE ROLE PLAYED BY THEM IN MANAGING AND ADMINISTERING THE COMMUNITY.

CATEGORISATION WAS BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE AREA UNDER A BATIN'S SUPERVISION AND THE POPULATION. THE INCREASE OF BETWEEN SEVEN AND 11-FOLD TAKES EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS VALUED THE GOOD DEEDS OF THE ORANG ASLI AS +EYES AND EARS+ OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN COMBATTING THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS. -- MORE  
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THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE NATIVE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT NEW LIFE STYLES AND TAKE PART IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES SO THAT IT WOULD NOT LAG BEHIND OTHER RACES.

NEVERTHELESS THE NATIVE COMMUNITY SHOULD RETAIN ITS UNIQUE TRADITIONS AND CULTURE TO PREVENT EXTINCTION.

TAKING FOR EXAMPLE THE UNIQUE ABILITY OF THE ORANG ASLI TO USE THE BLOWPIPE, HE SAID THE BLOWPIPE CONTEST WOULD BECOME PART OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SPORTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY CERTAIN GROUPS WORKING FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH INTERESTS JUST WHEN ELECTIONS WERE NEARING.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE ORANG ASLI IN THE PENINSULA HOLD A GATHERING AT LEAST ONCE IN TWO YEARS TO STRENGTHEN LINKS AMONG THEM AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES. -- BERNAMA  
1511MST 06 09 90