

FOLLOWING RPT CORRECTION:

MAHATHIR-KUWAIT

BM

BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH, SEPT 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUKSERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO DID NOT APPRECIATE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT IN BRINGING OUT STRANDED MALAYSIANS IN KUWAIT AND IRAQ.

THEY SHOULD IMAGINE THE HARDSHIPS ENCOUNTERED BY OTHER NATIONALS IN ATTEMPTING TO FLEE FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, REFERRING TO A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN AN ENGLISH DAILY TODAY.

THE LETTER FROM +CONCERNED+ AND BORE EIGHT SIGNATURES WAS RATHER CRITICAL OF WISMA PUTRA'S HANDLING OF INQUIRIES FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF STRANDED MALAYSIANS.

HE SAID STRANDED INDIANS, BANGLADESHIS AND EGYPTIANS FACED VARIOUS HARDSHIPS INCLUDING BEING FORCED TO SLEEP IN THE OPEN AND STRUGGLE OVER FOOD.

FORTUNATELY, MALAYSIANS WERE SPARED THE AGONY WHEN THEY WERE SAFETY BROUGHT BACK, HE SAID IN A MEET-THE-PEOPLE SESSION WITH ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY AT KEDAİK REGROUPING SCHEME ABOUT 20KM FROM HERE. -- MORE.

1637MST 06 09 9 0

U E617 ENG

MAHATHIR-KUWAIT 2 BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ATTITUDE OF THESE PEOPLE SHOWED THAT THERE WERE TAKING THINGS FOR GRANTED THAT THEY FAILED TO EXPRECIATE WHAT WAS DONE FOR THEM.

BATINSULIM PANGLIMASENG, WHO REPRESENTED SOME 6,000 MEMBERS OF THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY, SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT THEY HAD NEVER DOUBTED THE SINCERITY OF THE GOVERMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN IMPROVING THEIR LOT.

HE ALSO PLEDGED SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMAD ALI WERE GIVEN A TRADITIONAL ORANG ASLI WELCOME ON ARRIVAL.

HE ALSO INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR UNDER THE COMMAND OF ASP UDA NAGUB AND MOUNTED BY 193 MEMBERS OF THE ORANG ASLI SERVING IN THE POLICE FIELD FORCE AND RELA. -- MORE.

1624MST C16 09 90

U E624 ENG

MAHATHIR-KUWAIT 3 BANDAR MUADZAM SHAH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER PRESENTED +TONGKAT KUASA+ (A FORM OF SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY) TO EIGHT BATIN REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATES HAVING ORANG ASLI POPULATION, LED BY BATIN SULIM.

PRESENT WERE PAHANG MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI KHALILYAKOB, TRANSPORT MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LING LIONGSIK, ENERGY, TELECOMMS AND POSTS MINISTER DATUK SERI S. SAMYVELLU, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LIM KHENG YEIK, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMAD RAHMAT AND HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTER DATUK LIM AH LEK.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, A PARACHUTE JUMPING DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD FOR THOSE PRESENT BY POLICE PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL TERRITORY PARACHUTES CLUB. -- BERNAMA.

1639MST 06 09 90