

0420

R E841 AAE
MAHATHIR - OIL
BM

CHANGLUN, SEPT 21 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED GAVE AN ASSURANCE TODAY THAT ANY FURTHER INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRICES, SHOULD THERE BE A NEED FOR IT, WOULD BE DONE GRADUALLY SO AS NOT TO BURDEN THE PEOPLE.

MALAYSIA WOULD HAVE TO RAISE THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM IF WORLD OIL PRICES WENT UP OR DID NOT COME DOWN AGAIN, HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTROL THE PRICE OF GOODS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE AT A GATHERING AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH CHANGLUN HERE TODAY.

HE SAID IF THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM DID NOT GO UP, TRADERS DID NOT HAVE ANY REASON TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF GOODS. +WHEN THE PRICE OF OIL CAME DOWN, THEY (TRADERS) DID NOT REDUCE THE PRICE OF GOODS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO CURB THE INCREASE IN PRICE OF GOODS.

ASKED WHETHER THE 20 CONTROLLED ITEMS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY A PRICE INCREASE, HE SAID: +WE CAN CONTROL THE ESSENTIAL ITEMS (BUT) IF THEY (TRADERS) HAD TO PAY MORE FOR THE GOODS, WE ALLOW THEM TO SELL AT A HIGHER PRICE. TRADERS TOO WANT TO MAKE A PROFIT. -- MORE
2011MST 21 09 90

0421

R E842 AAE
MAHATHIR - OIL 2 CHANGLUN

+BUT IN THE CASE OF GOODS WHERE WE CAN CONTROL THE PURCHASE PRICE, THEN WE CAN CONTROL THE RETAIL PRICE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KEDAH MENTERI BESAR, DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF, LATER VISITED THE BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTION OFFICE FOR THE FELDA BATU LAPAN BALLOT BOX AREA BEFORE JOINING THE PEOPLE FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS AT MASJID PADANG PERAHU.

SPEAKING AFTER THE PRAYERS, HE EXPLAINED MALAYSIA'S STAND ON THE GULF CRISIS.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD NO WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO ISLAMIC NATIONS AND IT ALSO WOULD NOT SIDE WITH ANY COUNTRY INVOLVED IN THE CRISIS, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ.

MALAYSIA ONLY WANTED TO SEE PEACE IN THE GULF AND THAT THOSE INVOLVED SETTLE THEIR PROBLEM +AS MUSLIMS AND COMRADES IN ISLAM+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID: +WE VIEW THE INVASION OF KUWAIT BY IRAQ AS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT GOOD. IT IS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO DO... JUST AS WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE INVASION OF KUWAIT BY IRAQ IS WRONG.

+AT THE SAME TIME, WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE ANGER OF IRAQ AGAINST KUWAIT BECAUSE WHEN THE COUNTRIES PRODUCING OIL FIXED THE OIL PRICE... KUWAIT PURPOSELY PRODUCED MORE OIL. THEY DID NOT KEEP TO THEIR QOUTA. -- MORE
2013MST 21 09 90

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R E843 AAE
MAHATHIR - OIL 3 CHANGLUN

+THEY PRODUCED MORE OIL SO THAT OIL PRICES WOULD NOT GO UP. WHEN OIL PRICES DO NOT GO UP, COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES GAIN BECAUSE THEY CAN BUY OIL AT A LOW PRICE. COUNTRIES LIKE IRAQ LOSE BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO SELL OIL AT A LOWER PRICE.

+SO, THE IRAQIS BECOME ANGRY WITH KUWAIT BUT NO MATTER HOW ANGRY THEY ARE THEY CANNOT INVADE KUWAIT.

+WE FEEL BOTH SIDES ARE IN THE WRONG AND ALL WE WANT IS FOR THEM TO BE PEACEFUL... FOR IRAQ TO WITHDRAW ITS ARMED FORCES FROM KUWAIT AND FOR KUWAIT TO BE RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE OF KUWAIT... AND NOT POSE ANY THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE HOLY LAND FOR MUSLIMS IS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WHO WERE HERE FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT TO HIS PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY IN KUBANG PASU, RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR THIS EVENING.

-- BERNAMA

2015MST 21 09 90