

0393

R E364 ENG MES

MAHATHIR-SABAH

BM

2

KOTA KINABALU, JAN 19 1989 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE PEOPLE OF SABAH SHOULD REALISE THAT MALAYSIANS FROM OTHER STATES WHO COME HERE CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

MALAYSIA COULD PROGRESS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OPENED ITS DOORS TO FOREIGN INVESTORS WHO NOT ONLY BROUGHT CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO EXPERTISE? HE SAID.

MALAYSIANS FROM OTHER STATES SERVING IN SABAH DIRECTLY HELPED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE AND EXPOSED THE LOCAL PEOPLE TO SKILLS IN VARIOUS FIELDS, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE TANJUNG ARU BEACH HOTEL BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR.

HE ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANISATION (USNO) TO OPEN ITS 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IT WAS NOT FAIR TO THINK THAT MALAYSIANS FROM OTHER STATES HAD NO PLACE IN SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE

1215MST 19 01 89

0394

R E365 ENG MES

MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 KOTA KINABALU

HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD NOT BE NARROW MINDED AND PAROCHIAL. +IF WE ALLOW FILIPINOS AND INDONESIANS TO COME IN TO DEVELOP THE STATE, WHY AREN'T MALAYSIANS FROM OUTSIDE SABAH ACCEPTED,+ HE ASKED,

ON THE SABAH GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN OIL ROYALTY FROM THE PRESENT FIVE PER CENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AS PART OF ONE NATION, EVERY STATE SHOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH, WHEREVER IT WAS FOUND, BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE.

HE ADDED: +NOT EVERY STATE IN MALAYSIA IS RICH. 'SABAH TOO WAS VERY BACKWARD WHEN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE WITHIN MALAYSIA, WHILE STATES IN THE PENINSULAR AT THAT TIME WERE MORE DEVELOPED.

+AT THAT TIME, MUCH OF THE REVENUE FROM THE PENINSULA WAS USED TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT IN SABAH AND OTHER STATES WHICH STILL LAGGED BEHIND.

+NOW THAT SABAH HAS DEVELOPED AND HAS BECOME RICH, IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT IT HELP DEVELOP OTHER STATES. THIS IS THE CONCEPT OF NATIONHOOD AND SUCH DEMANDS SHOULD NOT ARISE IF THE MALAYSIAN FEELING IS MATURE ENOUGH.+ -- MORE

2217MST 19 01 89

D399

R E367 ENG MES

MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 KOTA KINABALU

HE ALSO SAID THAT IN DISTRIBUTING ALLOCATIONS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS FAIR AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR STATES, THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE NATION.

ON CLAIMS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS PLOTTING TO TOPPLE THE SABAH GOVERNMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY THE OPINION OF ONE PERSON.

+THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN ALSO ALLEGE THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LIKE IT. I AM NOT SAYING THIS, BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY IT. THIS IS ONLY AN ALLEGATION AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE MATTER INTO CONSIDERATION AT ALL AND FEELS IT IS ONLY AN ALLEGATION,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REITERATED HIS ADVICE TO SABAH POLITICIANS NOT TO FAN RACIAL, PARÓCHIAL AND RELIGIOUS SENT4 MENTS.

ASKED WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES IF SENSITIVE ISSUES WHICH COULD WEAKEN THE COUNTRY AND CREATE ENMITY AMONG THE PEOPLE CONTINUED TO BE RAISED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT USE ITS POWERS UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.+ -- MORE
1227MST 19 01 89

D400

RE368 ENG MES

MAHATHIR-SABAH 4 KOTA KINABALU

+BUT IF A SITUATION ARISE, SUCH AS THE ONE IN NOVEMBER 1987, WHICH BRINGS ABOUT A DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERE! THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS,+HE ADDED.

ON REQUESTS BY BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES IN SABAH THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTY SYMBOLS AND NOT THE BN DACING IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WHEN THE 'TIME CAME.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY A +TAX HAVEN+ WAS AIMED AT EXPEDITING ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

+THE PROPOSAL WAS ACTUALLY PLANNED THREE YEARS AGO BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
1228MST 19 01 89