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R. E496 AAE

ATTN EDITORS: CORRECTION

IN ITEM E494 SLUGGED +MAHATHIR-GSP+, PARA 2 SHOULD READ +THIS YEAR, THEY (APPLICATIONS TO REMOVE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PRIVILEGES FOR MALAYSIA) ARE REJECTED, ...)

MAHATHIR-GSP

BM

ALOR SETAR, NOV 1 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD BELIEVES THAT CERTAIN ORGANISATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AIDED BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THIS COUNTRY, WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR EFFORTS TO OBSTRUCT MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

+THIS YEAR IT (APPLICATIONS TO REMOVE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PRIVILEGES FOR MALAYSIA) IS REJECTED, NEXT YEAR THERE WILL MORE MORE EFFORTS TO OBSTRUCT OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COMMENTING ON THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DECISION TO DISMISS A SUIT BY AMERICAN LABOUR AND OTHER GROUPS AGAINST PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND SEVERAL OF HIS ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS FOR ALLEGEDLY FAILING TO ENFORCE WORKER-RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP).

THE COURT ALSO REJECTED ANOTHER MOVE BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR RIGHTS AND EDUCATION RESEARCH FUND AND OTHER GROUPS TO OBTAIN A COURT ORDER THAT WOULD HAVE FORCED THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO ACCEPT FOR REVIEW GSP PETITIONS AGAINST MALAYSIA.

JUDGE GERHARD GESELL SAID THAT +THE PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION IS MOOT.+

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT HERE ON HIS ARRIVAL FROM KUALA LUMPUR, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SADNESS OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY +WHO APPEARED TO BE UNEASY IN SEEING MALAYSIAN WORKERS GETTING EMPLOYMENT AND THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC GROWTH.+ -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-GSP 2 ALOR SETAR

HE, HOWEVER, DID NOT BLAME THE BODIES IN AMERICA BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO HIM, WHAT THEY DID WAS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THEIR WORKERS.

+I AM NOT BLAMING THEM BECAUSE ANY COUNTRY WILL TRY TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTERESTS. I AM ONLY SAD BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO PREFER TO HELP FOREIGN WORKERS RATHER THAN MALAYSIAN WORKERS AND THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL URGE SUCH BODIES TO STIFLE OUR ECONOMY BY CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF GSP PRIVILEGES,+ HE SAID.

ASKED ON THE MEASURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE AGAINST SUCH INDIVIDUALS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +OURS IS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY.+

+IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY THERE ARE ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE. THERE ARE PATRIOTIC PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY, WHO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, THEIR WORKERS' INTERESTS AND THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO PRETEND TO LOOK AFTER THE WORKERS BUT IN FACT WORK FOR FOREIGN INTERESTS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ARE HERE TO ATTEND A BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTION THANKSGIVING AT THE AL-AQLA MOSQUE IN JITRA.

THEY WERE RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT BY KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI OSMAN AROFF AND HIS WIFE, DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR ABDUL HAMID OTHMAN AND OTHER DIGNITARIES. -- BERNAMA

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