

25 APR 1998

Mahathir-Restaurant

PM: INITIATE MORE ACTIVITIES TO BOOST THE NATION'S FINANCIAL POSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that more economic activities which can boost the country's financial position should be initiated as this is vital for the nation's development.

Opening an overhead bridge restaurant operated by Plus Bhd at KM458.4 of the North-South Expressway near Sungai Buloh here, he said that the restaurant costing RM20 million would provide more comfort and convenience for those travelling along the expressway.

He said that even during the current economic slowdown, the restaurant was among activities which could contribute towards the nation's development.

The overhead bridge is the first of the first two overhead bridge restaurants to be opened along the expressway. The other is located at KM210 near Air Keroh in Melaka and is due to be fully operational by June.

Construction of the Sungai Buloh restaurant started in late 1995. It was opened to the public in November last year.

Dr Mahathir said that the concept of overhead bridge restaurants, common in the United States and Europe, provided yet another business activity.

He hoped that other concession holders would set up such restaurants along highways managed by them.

The prime minister said that he would like to see some competition among the concession holders which would hopefully result in better services provided to the public.

At the function, he was presented cheques by Plus and 7-Eleven for donations to the Seri Tanjung Old Folk's Home and the Kampung Damai Orphanage.

Among those present were Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu.

Other facilities including a surau, public washroom, petrol station and automatic teller machines are also available there.

-- BERNAMA

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