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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WAS TODAY ACCEPTED AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE COOPERATIVE AUDITORS INSTITUTE.

A CERTIFICATE TO THIS EFFECT WAS HANDED OVER TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE INSTITUTE'S PRESIDENT, ENCIK IBRAHIM HASSAN, AT A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE.

A PERSON IS MADE AN HONORARY MEMBER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF COOPERATIVES.

THE NUMBER OF HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE DOES NOT EXCEED 20 AT ANY ONE GIVEN PERIOD.

THE INSTITUTE AIMS AT PRODUCING AUDITORS WHO HAVE A BACKGROUND IN ALL SECTORS, INCLUDING COOPERATIVES. SOME 608 PEOPLE ARE UNDERGOING TRAINING WITH THE INSTITUTE. -- MORE  
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FELLOWS OF THE INSTITUTE ARE RECOGNISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS PROFESSIONALS AND CAN TAKE UP POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE PARTICULARLY POSTS RELATED TO THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

A SHORT CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSION FOLLOWED IN WHICH ENCIK IBRAHIM WAS SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED THE PRIME MINISTER TO SECURE A STATUS SIMILAR TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFIED FROM THE INSTITUTE.

LATER, A 17-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM THE CHINA COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CCPIT), HEADED BY ITS VICE-CHAIRMAN, ENCIK GUO DONGPO, CALLED ON DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING BETWEEN THE CCPIT AND THE MALAY AND CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WAS HELD IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ALSO PRESENT.

THE CCPIT DELEGATION IS ON A 10-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA TO RECIPROCATATE THE VISIT OF THE MALAY AND CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO BEIJING IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR. -- BERNAMA  
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