

MORIB, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, PROF. (DR) AHMAD IBRAHIM, TODAY CALLED FOR LEGISLATION TO PREVENT FREQUENT CASES OF LAND FRAGMENTATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID LAND FRAGMENTATION WAS ON THE INCREASE EACH YEAR ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC FIGURE HAD BEEN RELEASED.

THE FRAGMENTATION OF LAND WAS MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INHERITED LAND TO THE BENEFICIARIES FOLLOWING A DEATH, HE ADDED IN A WORKING PAPER ON THE PROBLEM OF LAND FRAGMENTATION PRESENTED AT THE UMNO YOUTH SEMINAR HERE.

PROF. (DR) AHMAD ALSO SPELT OUT A FIVE-POINT PLAN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF LAND FRAGMENTATION. THEY ARE:

1. TO DETERMINE THE MINIMUM ACREAGE OF LAND WHICH COULD BE APPROVED AND REGISTERED,

2. TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION EMPOWERING A TESTATOR TO DISTRIBUTE HIS LAND TO HIS BENEFICIARIES ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, --BERNAMA MORE. 1728/ZCM

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3. ENCOURAGING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES TO ASSIST A BENEFICIARY TO BUY THE SHARES OF OTHER BENEFICIARIES SO THAT THE LAND COULD BE OWNED BY ONE OR TWO BENEFICIARIES ONLY,

4. ENCOURAGING AGRICULTURAL FARMING AMONG LAND OWNERS SO THAT THE LAND COULD BE DEVELOPED ON A COLLECTIVE BASIS, AND

5. INTRODUCING LAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, INCLUDING LAND CONSOLIDATION SCHEMES, FOR FRAGMENTED LAND.

ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TO BENEFICIARIES, PROF. AHMAD SUGGESTED THAT THE TESTATOR SHOULD TURN HIS LAND INTO PUBLIC PROPERTY SO THAT THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM IT COULD BE SHARED BY THE BENEFICIARIES OR USED FOR RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO DIED INTTESTATE BY MAKING THEIR LAND INTO PUBLIC PROPERTY WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING THEIR FAMILIES FROM SELLING THE LAND.

+THIS IS ANOTHER WAY OF PREVENTING LAND FRAGMENTATION AND ENSURES THAT THE LAND IS INHERITED BY ONE'S FAMILY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS,+ HE SAID. --BERNAMA MORE. 1735/ZCM

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IN ANOTHER WORKING PAPER ON AUTOMATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UMNO CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, SAID THE USE OF CERTAIN MACHINERIES HAD CAUSED LOSSES TO THE COUNTRY BECAUSE IT HAD RESULTED IN AN INCREASED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED.

HE FELT THAT THE USE OF THESE MACHINERIES WAS NOT BECAUSE MALAYSIA WAS SHORT OF MANPOWER BUT BECAUSE MOST OF HER ENGINEERS WERE TRAINED OVERSEAS PARTICULARLY IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION, MOST OF THESE ENGINEERS WERE ONLY CONCERNED WITH THE EASIER MEANS OF CARRYING OUT THEIR WORK WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THE EFFECTS OF USING MACHINERY.

HE, HOWEVER, AGREED THAT THE USE OF MACHINERY WAS UNAVOIDABLE IN CERTAIN FIELDS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR SUCH AS IN PLOUGHING PADI FIELDS FOR DOUBLE CROPPING. --BERNAMA MORE. 1740/ZCM

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE TIMES WHEN LOCAL PLANNERS AND ECONOMISTS CONSIDERED EVERYTHING THAT WERE DONE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE GOOD WITHOUT STUDYING THE SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY.

FOR INSTANCE, HE ADDED, THE USE OF PARKING METERS BY THE AUTHORITIES IN SOME TOWNS IN MALAYSIA HAD DEPRIVED THE PEOPLE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THESE EQUIPMENT WERE LATER REPLACED BY MEN WHEN THE AUTHORITIES REALISED THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF AUTOMATION WAS THAT THE MONEY FROM MALAYSIAN HAD BEEN USED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH LIVING STANDARDS OF WORKERS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. THIS GREATLY BENEFITTED THE WESTERN CAPITALISTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TIED DOWN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MACHINERY COULD NOT SYMBOLISE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA BECAUSE SHE POSSESSED ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT MANPOWER TO CARRY OUT MOST OF THE WORK DONE BY MACHINERY. --BERNAMA. 1745/ZCM