

(F)
131:
MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 10 (BERNAMA) — DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TONIGHT THAT NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES WOULD NOT HELP THE GOVERNMENT ACHIEVE THE 30 PER CENT TARGET FOR BUMIPUTRAS IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BY 1990.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MEASURE WAS NOT ONLY UNACCEPTABLE BUT WOULD ALSO NOT BENEFIT THE COUNTRY.

+IF OUR ECONOMISTS FEEL THAT WE CANNOT ACHIEVE THE TARGET THROUGH THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, AND INSTEAD, WE SHOULD TAKE FROM THE RICH, SUCH A PROPOSAL CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING DURING A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION WITH JOURNALISTS ON TV MALAYSIA'S +30 MINUTE+ PROGRAMME.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY HAD SUCCEEDED IN CREATING PROSPEROUS BUMIPUTRAS WHO WERE FORMERLY POOR. -- BERNAMA MORE 2312/ZCM

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID HE COULD NOT DENY THAT THE RICH MIGHT HAVE BECOME RICHER AND THE POOR, POORER.

BUT, HE SAID THIS WAS NOT CAUSED BY THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

+SINCE WE PRACTISE FREE ENTERPRISE, CERTAINLY SOME OF THE RICH HAD BECOME RICHER,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MIGHT BE BECAUSE THE RICH FIND IT EASIER TO BORROW FROM BANKS TO DO BUSINESS.

+HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE POOR HAVE NO CHANCE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING STANDARD TO ONE COMPARABLE TO THE PROSPEROUS.

+IF THE POOR WORK HARD AND TRAIN THEMSELVES TO DO BUSINESS, THEY CERTAINLY CAN BECOME RICH.+

REFERRING TO HIS BOOK, +THE MALAY DILEMMA+, WHICH HAS BEEN BANNED, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE BOOK WAS NOT SOLELY CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF THE MALAYS, BUT ALSO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY OTHER COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA.

THE BOOK ANALYSED IN-DEPTH THE PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS TO THEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 2324/ZCM

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE WAS HAPPY THAT A LARGE PART OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WAS BASED ON PROPOSALS SUGGESTED IN HIS BOOK.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW DETERMINED TO ABOLISH THE IMBALANCE AMONG THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

+THIS STEP WAS TAKEN IN THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN AND HAS, TO SOME EXTENT, RECTIFIED THE ECONOMIC IMBALANCE AMONG THE RACES.

+THIS EFFORT WILL NOT SUCCEED IF WE DEPEND ON THE MALAYS ALONE.

+THAT WAS WHY THE GOVERNMENT SET UP VARIOUS AGENCIES TO VENTURE INTO INDUSTRIES SO AS TO TAKE A SHARE OF THEM TO BE GIVEN TO THE MALAYS.+

ASKED ON THE CABINET RE-SHUFFLE, HE SAID THIS WOULD PUT A STOP TO UNHEALTHY SPECULATIONS WHICH SURFACED AFTER THE DEATH OF TUN ABDUL RAZAK. -- BERNAMA MORE 2331/ZCM

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MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ADDED: +WHETHER THE PUBLIC FAVOUR MEMBERS OF THE NEW CABINET OR NOT IS ANOTHER MATTER, BUT WITH THE END OF SPECULATIONS, THE PEOPLE CAN ANALYSE FOR THEMSELVES THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE COULD CARRY OUT HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SATISFACTION.

+THE PEOPLE CAN MAKE UP THEIR MIND AFTER I HAVE SERVED FOR A PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

ON UMNO'S FUTURE, DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE PARTY'S ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SAID THE YOUNGER GENERATION MUST TAKE AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE PART IN POLITICS IF THEY WISHED TO MAINTAIN THE PARTY IN POWER.

HE SAID THAT THE NATION'S INDEPENDENCE MIGHT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF OTHERS IF THEY FAILED TO DEFEND IT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT ONE REASON THE YOUNGER GENERATION DID NOT TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN POLITICS WAS BECAUSE THEIR BACKGROUND DEFERRED FROM THAT OF THE OLDER GENERATION. —
BERNAMA 2342/ZCM