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MAHATHIR-UMNO

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PONTIAN KECIL, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAYS THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF 30 PER CENT BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIES MAY NOT BE ACHIEVED IF THEY FAIL TO MANAGE THEIR PRESENT INDUSTRIES.

+TO MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC POSITION, WE MUST KNOW HOW TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE PONTIAN UMNO DIVISION HERE TODAY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID BUMIPUTRAS MUST FACE UP TO THE MANY CHALLENGES IN THE FIELDS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IF THEY WISHED TO PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY.

WITHOUT ECONOMIC RESOURCES, THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR RIGHTS, INCLUDING RELIGION, HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT NATIONALISE FOREIGN AND PRIVATE INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE THE 30 PER CENT BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION BY 1990.
— BERNAMA MORE 2103/ZCM

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ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY WHILE PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE BUMIPUTRAS THROUGH THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE NOT FORCED TO GIVE PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS TO BUMIPUTRAS BUT THEY WERE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO TO CREATE RACIAL BALANCE IN INDUSTRIES.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT, SPREARHEADED BY UMNO SINCE MERDEKA WAS ALWAYS FAIR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT THIS FAIRNESS WAS MANIFESTED IN THE CREATION OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, WHICH WAS AN AFFILIATION OF VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT. — BERNAMA MORE 2112/ZCM

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EARLIER, SPEAKING AT THE TANAH MELAYU PINEAPPLE FACTORY AT PEKAN NENAS, NINE MILES FROM HERE, DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF FIMA, ANNOUNCED THAT THE PINEAPPLE FACTORY AT PULAI SEBATANG WOULD BE CLOSED PERMANENTLY FROM APRIL 1.

THE FACTORY HAD BEEN CLOSED TEMPORARILY BECAUSE IT HAD INCURRED LOSSES DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. LAST YEAR, THE FACTORY LOST ABOUT \$1.2 MILLION.

MEANWHILE, THE PEKAN NENAS FACTORY WOULD CONTINUE OPERATIONS SINCE IT MADE A PROFIT OF \$500,000 LAST YEAR.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE TWO GATHERINGS WERE THE CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATO' ALI HAJI AHMAD, JOHORE STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DATO' HAJI ABDULLAH SUDIN, AND DATO' HAJI ELIAS UDIN, WHO REPRESENTED THE MENTRI BESAR. —BERNAMA 2121/LK