

MALAYSIA MUST PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR OWN TRADE

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15^{7c} (BERNAMA ES) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THAT MALAYSIA MUST PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY AND DIRECTLY IN PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO MEET THE INCREASING VOLUME OF ITS TRADE.

SPEAKING AT THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF +RIMBA MERANTI+ THE MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION'S SECOND BULK CARRIER AT IMARI SHIPYARD IN JAPAN TODAY HE PRAISED MISC FOR DIVERSIFYING ITS FLEET OF VESSELS.

IN HIS SPEECH WHICH WAS RELEASED HERE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT MISC SHOULD HAVE DIVERSIFIED FLEET SINCE MALAYSIA EXPORTS PRIMARY PRODUCTS SUCH AS RUBBER, TIN, TIMBER, PALM OIL AND IN RETURN IMPORTS CAPITAL GOODS, PLANT AND MACHINERY AS WELL AS MANUFACTURED AND FINISHED PRODUCTS.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MISC, WHOSE TOTAL TONNAGE THOUGH STILL BELOW ONE MILLION DWT, WOULD MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN MEETING MALAYSIA'S SHIPPING NEEDS.

JAPAN, HE SAID, COULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LOAN FACILITIES, KNOWHOW AND TECHNICAL SKILLS IN THE OPERATION OF THE VESSELS AS WELL AS TRAINING MALAYSIAN SEAMEN AND TECHNICAL STAFF.

HE TERMED AS APPROPRIATE THE NAMING OF THE VESSEL AFTER ONE OF MALAYSIA'S WELL-KNOWN TIMBER SPECIES. THE VESSEL WILL FORM PART OF A NEW TIMBER BULK SERVICE OF THE MISC BEGINNING FROM AUGUST.

RIMBA MERANTI WILL BE JOINED BY 'RIMBA RAMIN' NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TWO OTHER VESSELS TO BE DELIVERED LATER THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT SERVICE TO SHIPPERS AND EXPORTERS OF BULK CARGO.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +THE RECOVERY IN WORLD ECONOMY ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPECTED IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING MEANS THAT MISC IS WELL PLACED TO FULLY UTILISE THE VESSELS.+ - BERNAMA ES 2118/HS